



**GIANCARLO ESPOSITO: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW!**

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE | ISSUE 217

# STAR WARS

## I N S I D E R

**Exclusive**  
*Star Wars:*  
*The High Republic*  
**Fiction!**

### **Yub Nub!**

Adventures on Endor  
with *Return of the Jedi*'s  
Ewok performers

### **INTERVIEWS:**

#### **John Knoll**

Part one of an exclusive  
interview with the  
special-effects wizard

#### **Star Wars:** **Timelines**

We talk to the authors  
of the book that brings  
order to the galaxy

# RETURN OF THE JEDI

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of  
the original trilogy's final chapter



**RISE OF THE REBELLION**  
**ANDOR SEASON ONE COMPANION**





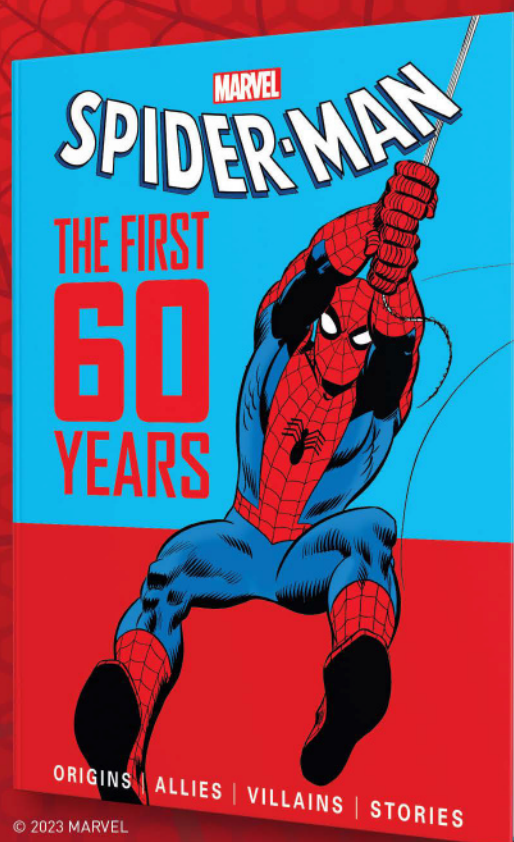
## YOUR ESSENTIAL COMPANION TO THE BLOCKBUSTER MARVEL STUDIOS MOVIE!

Features interviews with **Tom Holland** (Spider-Man/Peter Parker), **Zendaya** (MJ), **Benedict Cumberbatch** (Doctor Strange), and returning Spider-Men **Tobey Maguire** and **Andrew Garfield**! Plus, behind-the-scenes interviews with the teams responsible for the movie's stunts, costumes, and groundbreaking visual effects.



## CELEBRATE SPIDER-MAN'S FIRST 60 YEARS IN COMICS!

This deluxe volume explores Spider-Man's greatest adventures, his most loyal allies and his deadliest battles against a rogue's gallery of the most iconic villains ever created! With profiles of his visionary creators, along with vintage artwork from the Marvel vaults, this is the ultimate celebration of a character that has become a pop culture legend.



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# "Hello There!"



Imagine you're reading this edition of *Star Wars Insider* in March 1983. It doesn't matter how you got there—perhaps you have access to the World Between Worlds or found a copy in an abandoned DeLorean. First, cringe at your flared jeans and dodgy collars [yes, people were still wearing them even though pastel shades and permed hair were on their way in]. Secondly, you'd better ask yourself if you really want to be reading *Star Wars* spoilers from decades in the future, because at this point in time no one knew for sure whether Darth Vader really was Luke Skywalker's dad!

Imagine that? You had yet to see *Return of the Jedi*, the final chapter in the *Star Wars* saga that would resolve all your unanswered questions and give you one last hit of adventure in the galaxy far, far away....

Of course, we now know that there were (and are) many more *Star Wars* tales yet to be told. Far from being the end, *Return of the Jedi* was the start of something much bigger. In this issue of *Insider*, as we begin our celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the original trilogy's epic conclusion, we explore how that movie seeded themes, ideas, and plots that have unfolded in movies and television series ever since. Speaking of which, we also have interviews with Giancarlo Esposito (Moff Gideon in *The Mandalorian*), Antonio Viña (Young Cassian in *Andor*), and Industrial Light & Magic's illustrious special-effects wizard John Knoll. What with our *Andor* Season One companion and behind-the-scenes chat with the authors of *Star Wars: Timelines*, your 1983 self would be jealous indeed.

May the Force be with you.

**Christopher Cooper**  
Editor

## MEET THE CONTRIBUTORS...



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John is a teacher, journalist, and convention panel host who writes about science fiction and *Star Wars* for websites and magazines.



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## A Saga's Final Step?

Forty years since the movie arrived in theaters in 1983, *Insider* celebrates the anniversary of *Return of the Jedi* by examining its influence on the *Star Wars* stories that have followed.



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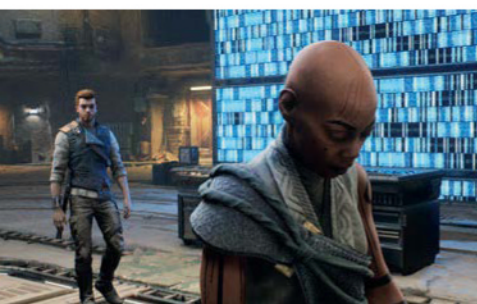
# LAUNCHPAD

NEWS / BOOKS / COMICS / GAMES / FASHION

## A Game of Survival

The return of Cal Kestis and BD-1

**T**he former Padawan and his faithful droid return to the fray in *Star Wars Jedi: Survivor*, an all-new adventure set five years after the events of *Star Wars: Fallen Order*.



The next chapter in Cal Kestis' adventures, developed by Respawn Entertainment and Lucasfilm Games, will be released by Electronic Arts on PS5, Xbox Series X/S, and PC on April 28, bringing with it an enhanced combat system including new Force abilities and lightsaber fighting styles.

As the dark times spread across the galaxy and enemies close in, a more experienced Cal (played once again by Cameron Monaghan) will be faced with testing choices as he struggles to protect those who are closest to him.

"We find Cal in a really dire situation at the beginning of the game," Monaghan recently told

StarWars.com. "He's searching for ways to rebel, but what happens when you have hope in a situation that has become increasingly hopeless? Different people have different ideas about what is the best way to resist.

"This game is really ambitious in how much it is furthering and progressing not only the gameplay elements, but also the story and the characters as well," added Monaghan. "I think people are going to be pleasantly surprised by just how this game progresses, and where it goes as you get deeper into it. It is not only exciting, it's also emotional and beautiful, and treats its audience with

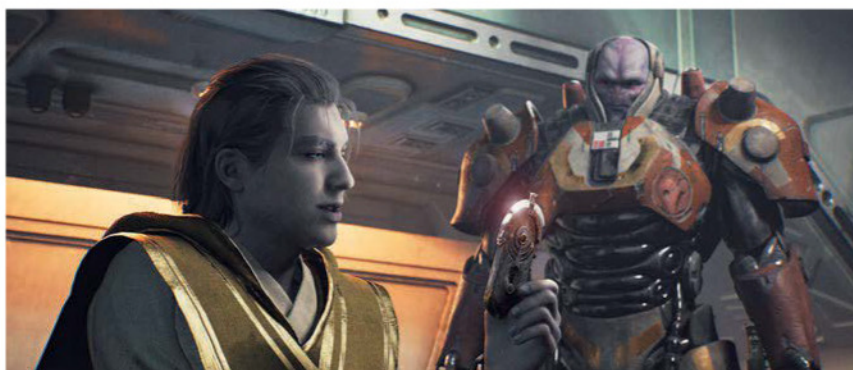




a level of respect that I think a lot of people are going to really appreciate.”

Cal’s mentor, Cere Junda (played by Debra Wilson), also returns for the gaming sequel, and the heroic Jedi seems to have found a new ally in the form of mercenary Bode Akuna, with whom he forms a special bond.

If the prospect of the new game isn’t enough Cal Kestis for you, and you want to read about one of his adventures between *Fallen Order* and *Survivor*, then pick up a copy of *Star Wars Jedi: Battle Scars*, the new novel by Sam Maggs, published by Random House Worlds and available in all good bookstores on March 7.





# Going for Gold

*Star Wars* nominated for a galaxy of awards

**I**n a bumper year for *Star Wars* fans, we were never more than a few weeks away from a new run of galactic tales on Disney+. As a result, the odds of *Star Wars* shows vying for awards were way better than those of surviving an asteroid field.

*Star Wars: Andor* (2022 - ), *Obi-Wan Kenobi* (2022) and *Tales of the Jedi* (2022) received nominations from the Producers Guild of America, with *Andor* in the running for the Norman Felton Award for Outstanding Producer of Episodic Television—Drama. The PGA also nominated the Ewan McGregor-led *Obi-Wan Kenobi* for the David L. Wolper Award for Outstanding Producer of Limited or Anthology Series Television and *Tales of the Jedi* for Outstanding Short Form Program.

The Directors Guild of America nominated Deborah Chow in their Movies for Television and Limited Series category for directing *Obi-Wan Kenobi*.

*Andor* also has received a Screen Actors Guild nomination for Best Stunt Ensemble in a Television Series, and has also been recognized by the Writers Guild of America for Best Drama Series and Best New Series.

Here's a full list of *Star Wars* nominations as this issue of *Insider* went to press:



## *Star Wars: The Book of Boba Fett*

- Chapter 7: "In the Name of Honor": Mos Espa VES: Outstanding Created Environment In An Episode, Commercial, Or Real-Time Project

Daniel Schmid Leal, Phi Tran, Hasan Ilhan, Steve Wang

- Chapter 6: "From the Desert Comes a Stranger" VES: Outstanding Compositing & Lighting In An Episode

Luke Alike, Peter Demarest, Tami Carter, Brandon McNaughton, Sirak Ghebremusse



## *Star Wars: Obi-Wan Kenobi*

- Art Directors Guild Nomination: Television Movie Or Limited Series

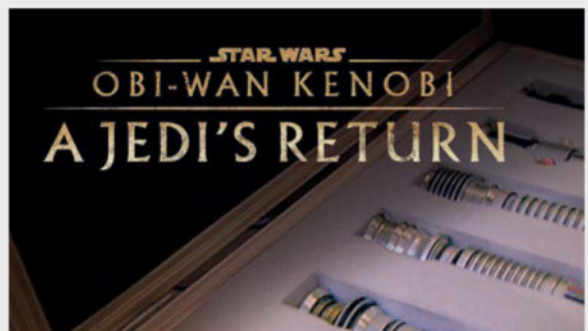
Production Designers:  
Todd Cherniawsky, Doug Chiang

- *Obi-Wan Kenobi* E6 Part 1 CAS Nomination: Non-Theatrical Motion Pictures Or Limited Series

Production Mixer: Julian Howarth CAS  
Re-Recording Mixer: Bonnie Wild  
Re-Recording Mixer: Danielle Dupre  
Re-Recording Mixer: Scott R. Lewis  
ADR Mixer: Doc Kane CAS  
Foley Mixer: Jason Butler

- *Obi-Wan Kenobi: A Jedi's Return* CAS Nomination: Television Nonfiction, Variety Or Music, Series Or Specials

Production Mixer: Richard Hays  
Re-Recording Mixer: Danielle Dupre  
Scoring Mixer: Scott Michael Smith







### ***Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi***

- **Season 1, Episode 4: “The Sith Lord”**  
MPSE Nomination: Outstanding Achievement in Sound Editing, Broadcast Animation

Supervising Sound Editors: David W. Collins, Matthew Wood

Sound Effects Editors: Kevin Bolen, Michael Brinkman

Foley Supervisor: Frank Rinella

Foley Artists: Margie O'Malley, Andrea Gard, Sean England



### ***LEGO Star Wars: Summer Vacation***

- **MPSE Nomination: Outstanding Achievement in Sound Editing, Non-theatrical Animation**

Supervising Sound Editors: David W. Collins, Matthew Wood

Sound Designer: David W. Collins

Sound Effects Editors: Kevin Bolen, Bill Rudolph

Foley Supervisor: Frank Rinella

Foley Editor: Eryne Prine

Foley Artist: Margie O'Malley



### ***Star Wars: Andor***

- **Society of Composers & Lyricists (SCL) Nomination: Outstanding Original Score for a Television Production**

Nicholas Britell

- **Season One, Episode 12: “Rix Road”**  
Art Directors Guild Nomination - One-Hour Fantasy Single-Camera Series

Production Designer: Luke Hull

- **Season One, Episode 3, “Reckoning”**  
MPSE Nomination - Outstanding Achievement in Sound Editing – Broadcast Long Form Effects / Foley

Supervising Sound Editors: David Acord, Margit Pfeiffer

Sound Effects Editor: J.R. Grubbs

Foley Editor: Shaun Farley MPSE

Foley Artists: John Roesch MPSE, Shelley Roden MPSE

Sound Designer: David Acord

- **Season One, Episode 3: “Reckoning”**  
VES: Outstanding Created Environment In An Episode, Commercial, Or Real-Time Project

Ferrix – Pedro Santos, Chris Ford, Jeff Carson-Bartzis, Alex Murtaza





# He'll Take You In Warmly

Jeffrey Brown takes on another father and son duo

**F**ollowing on from his hugely successful illustrated books *Darth Vader and Son*, *Vader's Little Princess*, and *Rey and Pals*, author Jeffrey Brown's next bestseller is sure to be *The Mandalorian and Child*, published this fall by Chronicle Books.

Featuring Brown's inimitable sense of humor and adorable artwork, the new book will reveal a heartwarming side to the adventures of Din Djarin and Grogu as they travel the galaxy, with appearances from friends and allies including Luke Skywalker, Peli Motto, IG-11, and Bo-Katan Kryze.

"Getting to construct my own take on Mando and Grogu was refreshingly fun," Brown revealed to *StarWars.com*. "And the way their relationship mixes friendship and family is the kind of heartwarming feels I love to put in my work."



## The Power of Love

Express your eternal kinship with romantic *Star Wars* jewelry

**W**hen Princess Leia Organa confessed that she loved Han Solo, the smuggler offered up a typically roguish and now iconic reply: "I know."

This classic exchange has been commemorated in Enso Rings' new *Star Wars* collection, which now includes bracelets in an assortment of colors, ranging from Platinum and Black Pearl to Rose Gold, so that you can make that same declaration. Also out now is the Galactic Core collection, featuring rings styled after characters including Grogu and Darth Vader. The silicone rings retail for \$44.99, while the bracelets are priced \$89.99 each. Purchase yours at [EnsoRings.com](https://www.EnsoRings.com).







# Shattered Worlds

All-terrain skirmish action from Atomic Mass Games

**S**tar Wars: Shatterpoint, a new tabletop miniatures skirmish game developed by Atomic Mass Games in collaboration with Lucasfilm, will be published by Asmodee this June.

Starting with the Core Set, players will be able to build and command their own strike teams, and expand their squads with a range of exciting new miniatures, including notable Clone Wars-era characters from Ahsoka Tano, Captain Rex, and Anakin Skywalker, to Count

Dooku, Lord Maul, and their associates. Terrain Packs will also be available, with Star Wars galaxy-themed buildings and landscapes to add another level to every epic battle. Players use their characters' special abilities and varied combat skills to control the flow of each conflict as they fight against each other to complete dynamically evolving mission objectives.

For the latest information on Shatterpoint and resources for Atomic Mass' other Star Wars miniatures games, visit [atomicmassgames.com](http://atomicmassgames.com).



## PRODUCTION DIARY

Our regular summary of *Star Wars* movies and television series currently filming:

### IN PRODUCTION



Starring Jude Law  
Disney+



Starring: Amandla Stenberg  
and Lee Jung-Jae.  
Disney+

### COMING SOON



Starring Jamaal Avery, Jr.  
and Emma Berman  
Disney+



Volume 2  
Disney+



Starring Rosario Dawson  
as Ahsoka Tano  
Cast Includes: Natasha Liu  
Bordizzo as Sabine Wren  
Disney+



# Friends Turned Foes

This will be a 'play' long remembered

0

*bi-Wan Kenobi* (2022) brought us a rematch for the ages, as the Jedi Knight once again faced off with his former apprentice, Darth Vader. Inspired by this duel, LEGO created an Obi-Wan Kenobi & Darth Vader paired set to add to its Brickheadz line. Build the tension

brick-by-brick as you construct this 260-piece set featuring the lightsaber-equipped duo, priced at \$19.99. You can also head back to Tatooine with LEGO's Tusken Raider Brickheadz figure, which retails for \$9.99. Each figure in the line measures approximately 3-inches tall and can be purchased at [LEGO.com](https://www.lego.com).



## THE LIGHT SIDE

By Jamie Cosley





# A Mon Calamari Milestone

Join the Rebellion at its most desperate hour

**T**he Battle of Endor proved to be the moment that the Rebellion turned the tide of the war against the Empire, as the destruction of the Second Death Star was a loss the Imperials could not endure. Gentle Giant Ltd's *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* Admiral Ackbar Milestones Statue captures the Mon Calamari officer who commanded the rebel fleet and overcame the Emperor's trap in all his glory. Standing at around 12-inches tall, the 1:6 scale statue boasts detailed sculpting and paint applications to reflect the admiral's commanding presence. Priced at \$250.00, make the jump over to [gentlegiantltd.com](http://gentlegiantltd.com) to place your order.



# Hit the Deck!

Show your hand in this galactic card game clash



**T**he original *Star Wars* trilogy showcased the epic struggle between the Rebellion and the Empire, which was recently further explored in *Star Wars: Andor* (2022 - ). Fantasy Flight Games brings the galactic conflict into the palm of your hands with its *Star Wars: The Deckbuilding Game*, a two-person, easy-to-learn contest that allows you to choose a side and go head-to-head with your opponent as you try to destroy each other's bases. Head over to [FantasyFlightGames.com](http://FantasyFlightGames.com) to procure your deck and let the battles begin!

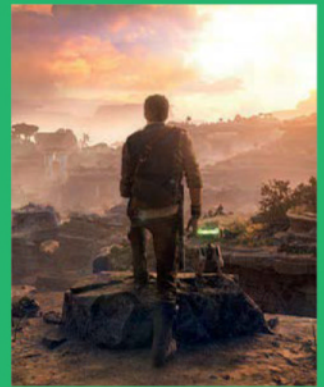
## The StarWars DotColumn

Fascinating features and articles from the digital vaults of [StarWars.com](http://StarWars.com)

Add [StarWars.com/Insider](http://StarWars.com/Insider) to your browser bookmarks to enjoy *Insider's* pick of the best of the official *Star Wars* website.

### Star Wars Jedi: Survivor

Actor Cameron Monaghan tells [StarWars.com](http://StarWars.com) about his return to the galaxy far, far away



### The High Republic Chronology

[StarWars.com](http://StarWars.com)'s list of essential *The High Republic* stories, updated to include the latest Phase II releases in chronological order.



### Yub nub, it's cookie time!

[StarWars.com](http://StarWars.com)'s Jenn Fujikawa brings you a delicious recipe for Ewok gingerbread cookies, a tasty treat for any season.





# Lightsaber Lineage

That lightsaber. It belongs to... You?

**W**hen *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* premiered in 2015, Kylo Ren's signature crossguard lightsaber quickly became a fan-favorite design. His mother Leia Organa's hilt was finally unveiled in *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* (2019), when Luke Skywalker gifted it to Rey. Now, direct from *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*, you can get your hands on out-of-this-galaxy recreations of these iconic weapons. Measuring in at 11 1/4-inches (Kylo Ren) and 11-inches (Leia Organa), a switch on the hilt activates a collection of authentic lightsaber noises, and each comes in a detailed case. Priced at \$159.99, both lightsaber hilts are sold separately at [ShopDisney.com](https://shopdisney.com).



## Save the Planets!

Legendary landscapes on eco-friendly blankets

**T**he Rebel Alliance sought to save an entire galaxy from the Empire's vile tyranny,

but we can start working on rescuing our own world with Sackcloth & Ashes' beautiful and planet-friendly *Star Wars* blankets.

Made from recycled materials and produced using a water free, dye free, and chemical free process, the blankets come in three different designs based on original trilogy locales: Tatooine, Hoth, and Endor. What's more, with every purchase made, Sackcloth & Ashes will donate a blanket to your local homeless shelter. Measuring 72-inches long by 60-inches wide, these blankets retail for \$140.00 each (or 4 interest-free payments of \$35.00) and can be purchased at [SackclothAndAshes.com](https://SackclothAndAshes.com).





## Fashionably Fennec

Suit up in Shand style

**F**ennec Shand's ability to strike targets from a distance robbed her foes of the opportunity to admire her distinctive black and orange ensemble close up, but Her Universe has created an enticing bounty inspired by Fennec's costume. The Fennec Shand Faux Leather Jacket, which is made from polyester and polyurethane, comes complete with a snap-button closure at the neck and front zipper. Priced at \$79.90, you can secure your quarry by visiting [HerUniverse.com](https://www.heruniverse.com).



## Seats of Power

Take your gaming to the next level in these comfortable Imperial chairs

**M**ost Imperial officers aspired to climb the ranks, and even Darth Vader eyed the Emperor's throne. Secretlab's new Imperial Collection of gaming chairs brings the Empire's prestige into your living room, crafting two *Star Wars* variants of its TITAN Evo 2022 Series chairs in a red and black Empire design, or as a white and black Stormtrooper edition. Upholstered in Secretlab NEO Hybrid Leatherette, both versions feature textured ribbing and intricate embroidery of their official product names in Aurebesh. Each chair is priced at \$624.00, but they can also be paid for in \$57.00 monthly installments when ordered at [Secretlab.co](https://www.secretlab.co)



## MANDO MERCH



The latest bounty on which to blow your beskar



### A Bounty of Bags

Style yourself with these Mandalorian accessories

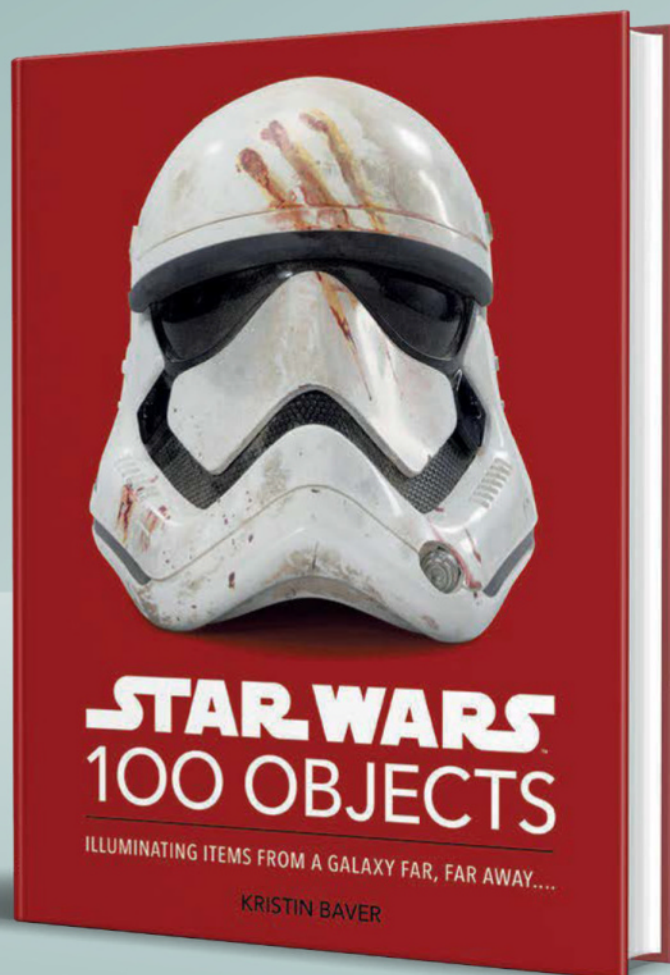
The bond between Din Djarin and Grogu only grew stronger as the two went on a series of adventures throughout *The Mandalorian* (2019 - ) and *The Book of Boba Fett* (2021). Vera Bradley has enshrined this friendship in three new patterns inspired by the clan: The Mandalorian Medallion, which colorfully depicts classic Grogu and Mando moments; Grogu Medallion, a print showcasing Grogu's favorite hobbies; and Mando & Grogu, a textured design highlighting the characters' faces. Each print has been applied to a variety of clothing, bags, and accessories, such as the 100% polyester Grogu Robe (\$75.00), recycled cotton Triple Zip Hipster Crossbody Bag (\$95.00), and a Textured Throw Blanket (\$75.00). Visit [VeraBradley.com](https://www.verabradley.com) to check out the entire range.





# Book Club

Step beyond the velvet rope in the latest *Star Wars* Book Releases



## Museum Quality

Examine fascinating artifacts with *Star Wars: 100 Objects*

The *Star Wars* galaxy is famous for its distinctive “lived in” aesthetic, a look achieved on screen through the collective vision and endeavor of the saga’s set dressers, costumiers, and propmakers who devoted their talents to making every item feel like a genuine article from a galaxy far, far away. Their galactic world building is celebrated in *Star Wars: 100 Objects*, a new hardcover book that is an in-world showcase of the illuminating items that bring the *Star Wars* saga to life.

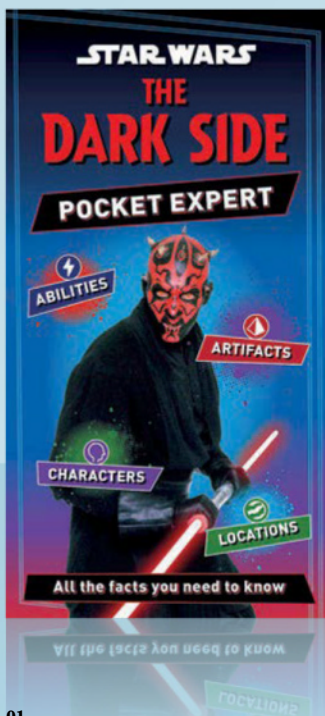
*Star Wars* authority (and regular *Insider* contributor) Kristin Bayer has curated a collection of 100 items from each of the *Star Wars* eras in consultation with the archivists at Skywalker Ranch and the Lucasfilm Archives. Bayer chronicles a timeline of the galaxy through these handpicked individual pieces, each historically significant and compelling in their ability to bring to life a culture, a place, or a person. From revered heirlooms such as Darth Vader’s mask and the

Skywalker lightsaber to a Tusken gaderffii stick and a clone trooper’s helmet, each object has its own story to tell. Presented chronologically, full-color images illustrate every entry, while Bayer’s accompanying text explores the background and resonance of each piece.

Published by DK and available in stores on April 4, *Star Wars: 100 Objects* offers an unforgettably tangible perspective on the timeless excitement, mystery, and mythology of the *Star Wars* galaxy.



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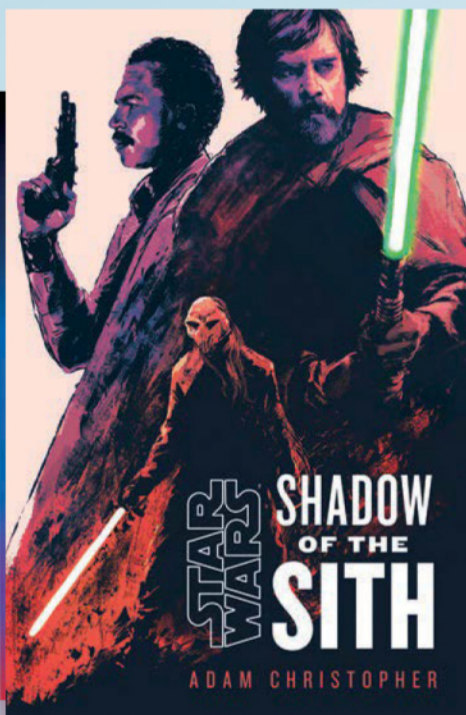


### 01 ***Star Wars: The Dark Side Pocket Expert***

Those who are young (or young at heart), who want to become an instant authority on the dark side need look no further. *Star Wars: The Dark Side Pocket Expert* is a handy guide that is filled with facts and trivia, opening the door to knowing more about the scourge of the galaxy.

From the ways of the Sith and other wicked Force practitioners to Imperial Inquisitors and fallen Jedi, *The Dark Side Pocket Expert* is a virtual Sith holocron of insights and statistics that profile legendary dark-side warriors and locations that are focal points for Sith energies. On sale April 11.

02



### 02 ***Star Wars: Shadow of the Sith***

Reprinting Adam Christopher's hit 2022 novel in paperback, this release from Del Rey teams Luke Skywalker and Lando Calrissian as they embark on a dangerous new adventure.

After Skywalker is haunted by visions of a dead world called Exegol, his fears are confirmed when Lando reports of a new menace—a Sith assassin named Ochi of Bestoon hopes to deliver Emperor Palpatine's granddaughter, Rey, in chains to Exegol. As Ochi hunts Rey and her parents, Luke and Lando step in to aid the young family as they desperately flee an unstoppable killer. On sale March 28.

03



### 03 ***Star Wars: Grogu's Galaxy***

This high-quality, non-fiction reader from DK Publishing is carefully leveled to set children up for success. Exciting images, clear vocabulary, and a fun quiz will test emerging readers as they follow along with everyone's favorite child, Grogu.

Written with those aged 9 to 11 in mind, this Level 1 book will help them build their confidence as they develop good reading habits while taking a trip through the *Star Wars* galaxy as Grogu goes on his fantastic journey. Along for the ride is the Mandalorian, Din Djarin, as well as amazing allies, like Peli Motto, Ahsoka Tano and Jedi Knight Luke Skywalker. On sale March 14.



# Comics Roundup

Explore the galactic fringe in this month's *Star Wars* Comics

## Hunting the Hutt

Marvel Comics take us back to Tatooine in *Star Wars*:

### *Jabba's Palace* #1

It has been forty years since the release of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* (1983), and the year-long celebration begins with the first issue in a series of one-shot comics set around the timeframe of the movie. In *Star Wars: Jabba's Palace*, writer Marc Guggenheim and artist Alessandro Miracolo revel with some genuine scum and villainy, showcasing Jabba the Hutt at the height of his powers as Tatooine's underworld kingpin.

Jabba's palace is home to a never-ending party of dancing, music, revelry, and the occasional sacrifice to the rancor monster beneath the floor. No one wants the good times to end, especially not Jabba, but someone in his inner circle has placed the boss in their sights. What is their plan, and what does it mean for the denizens and hangers-on who haunt the gangster's labyrinthine hideout?



A tale of deplorable wickedness that you won't soon forget, *Star Wars: Jabba's Palace* is just the first in a series of one-shot comics exploring the

characters, creatures, and locations that made *Return of the Jedi* such a feast for the eyes. Featuring a cover by Ryan Brown and several variant covers by notable artists, *Star Wars: Jabba's Palace* is on sale March 29.



## Yoda #5

In the ten-part *Star Wars: Yoda* miniseries, the famed Jedi Master's struggles and motivations are revealed in a series of flashback adventures.

Issue #5 sees writer Jody Houser and artist Luke Ross explore the alarming rise of the dark side among new initiates into the Jedi Order. Master Yoda seeks to pinpoint the source of the threat and shut it down, and he is aided in his efforts by Jedi Master Dooku. Can this unlikely duo succeed and prevent their young pupils from being led astray?

Marvel's *Star Wars: Yoda* #5 is on sale March 15.



## Sana Starros #2

Smuggler and adventurer Sana Starros has become a favorite character in *Star Wars* comics since her debut in 2015. In the second issue of her eponymous limited series, Sana and the entire extended Starros clan find themselves on a collision course of epic proportions. As troublesome mysteries from Sana's past come home to roost, the Starros fam decides whose party they're going to crash next! *Sana Starros* #2 is written by Justina Ireland (*The High Republic: Path of Deceit*) and illustrated by Pere Pérez (*Star Wars Revelations*), with a cover by Ken Lashley. Published by Marvel Comics, issue #2 is on sale March 8.



## Hyperspace Stories #6

The latest issue of Dark Horse's all-ages comic book anthology takes us back to when the green-skinned Rodian bounty hunter known as Greedo was just a rookie struggling to climb the ladder within Jabba the Hutt's criminal organization.

When a big deal goes south, Greedo is set up to take the fall by Jabba's latest romantic companion. Can he make it out alive, or will he become the next juicy meal for the Hutt's pet rancor? Writer Cecil Castellucci and artist Eduardo Mello are joined by cover artist Tom Fowler for *Star Wars: Hyperspace Stories* #6, which is on sale March 15.



## Incoming

Don't Miss These  
Upcoming Releases



## March

### Hidden Empire #4

Marvel Comics

**Writer:** Charles Soule

**Artist:** Stephen Cummings

**Cover Artist:** Paulo Siqueira

### The Mandalorian #7

Marvel Comics

**Writer:** Rodney Barnes

**Artist:** Georges Jeanty

**Cover Artist:** Sara Pichelli

### Darth Vader #32

Marvel Comics

**Writer:** Greg Pak

**Artist:** Ibraim Roberson

**Cover Artist:** Rahzzah

## APRIL

### Doctor Aphra #30

Marvel Comics

**Writer:** Alyssa Wong

**Artist:** Minkyu Jung

**Cover Artist:** Rachel Stott

### Darth Vader:

#### Black, White & Red #1

Marvel Comics

**Writers:** Jason Aaron, Peach Momoko, and Torunn Grønbeek

**Artists:** Leonard Kirk, Peach Momoko, and Klaus Janson

**Cover Artist:** Alex Maleev







# Luminous Lore

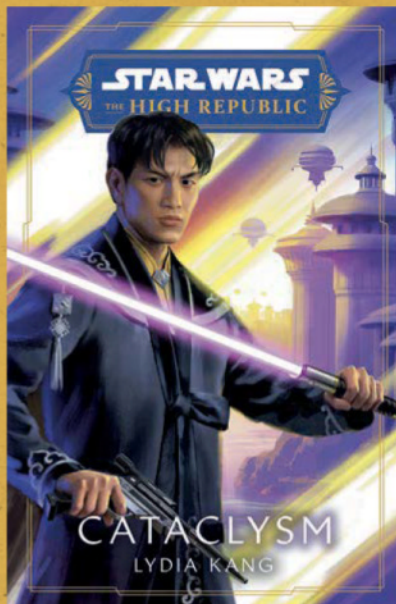
Shining a light on *Star Wars: The High Republic*.

## Cataclysm, Quests, and Collections

Phase II gathers pace as it races to its conclusion!

There is still plenty of High Republic drama to be enjoyed before the second phase of Lucasfilm's publishing initiative reaches its stunning climax in Cavan Scott's *The High Republic: Path of Vengeance* this May, with two epic new adventures and an exciting box set arriving in bookstores on April 4.

*The High Republic: Cataclysm*, written by Lydia Kang and published by Random House Worlds, picks up the story following the devastating events of *Convergence* and *The Battle of Jedha* in a thrilling 400-page novel. Tessa Gratton's Middle Grade novel, *The High Republic: Quest for Planet X*, published by Disney Lucasfilm Press, will take readers to the farthest reaches of the galaxy's Outer Rim, with meddling comms saboteurs intent on disrupting the Republic's mission to



connect the galaxy with communication buoys.

For those who've come to *The High Republic* during Phase II and missed the action of Phase I, they'll be able to join the adventure with a boxset of Young Adult novels from Disney Lucasfilm Press, featuring *Into the Dark* by Claudia Gray, *Out of the Shadows* by Justina Ireland, and *Midnight Horizon* by Daniel José Older.

## Incoming Comics



**The High Republic #7**  
Writer: Cavan Scott  
Artist: Andrea Broccardo  
Cover: Yanick Paquette  
Marvel Comics  
On sale March 22



**The High Republic Adventures: The Nameless Terror #2**  
Writer: George Mann  
Artists: Eduardo Mello and Ornella Savarese  
Dark Horse Comics  
On sale April 19



**The High Republic Adventures #5**  
Writer: Daniel José Older  
Artist: Toni Bruno  
Cover: Harvey Tolibao  
Dark Horse Comics  
On sale April 5



**The Blade #4 (of 4)**  
Writer: Charles Soule  
Artists: Marco Castiello and Jethro Morales  
Cover: Giuseppe Camuncoli  
Marvel Comics  
On sale March 29



## Republic Roundup

AVAILABLE NOW

### PHASE I

*Light of the Jedi*

**Writer:** Charles Soule  
Del Rey, Adult novel

*A Test of Courage*

**Writer:** Justina Ireland  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Middle Grade novel

*The Great Jedi Rescue*

**Writer:** Cavan Scott  
**Artist:** Petur Antonsson  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, 8x8 storybook

*Into the Dark*

**Writer:** Claudia Gray  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Young Adult novel

*The Rising Storm*

**Writer:** Cavan Scott  
Del Rey, Adult novel

*Race to Crashpoint Tower*

**Writer:** Daniel José Older  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Middle Grade novel

*Out of the Shadows*

**Writer:** Justina Ireland  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Young Adult novel

*Tempest Runner*

**Writer:** Cavan Scott  
Del Rey, Audio original novel

*Showdown at the Fair*

**Writer:** George Mann  
**Artist:** Petur Antonsson  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, 8x8 storybook

*Mission to Disaster*

**Writer:** Justina Ireland  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Middle Grade novel

*The Fallen Star*

**Writer:** Claudia Gray  
Del Rey, Adult novel

*The Battle for Starlight*

**Writer:** George Mann  
**Artist:** Petur Antonsson  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, 8x8 storybook

*Midnight Horizon*

**Writer:** Daniel José Older  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Young Adult novel

### PHASE II

*Path of Deceit*

**Writer:** Justina Ireland and Tessa Gratton  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Young Adult novel

*Quest for the Hidden City*

**Writer:** George Mann  
Disney Lucasfilm Press, Middle Grade novel

*Convergence*

**Writer:** Zoraida Córdova  
Del Rey, Adult novel

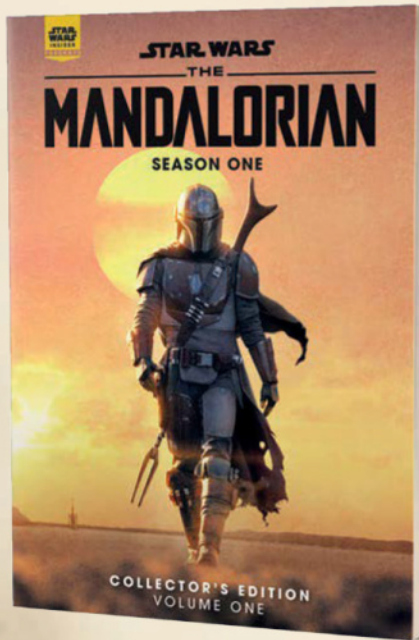
*The Battle of Jedha*

**Writer:** George Mann  
Random House, Audio original novel

(Excluding Comics & Manga)



# COMPLETE YOUR *STAR WARS*: *THE MANDALORIAN* COLLECTION



Go behind the scenes of the hit live-action series, streaming now on Disney+, with episode guides, character profiles, rare photographs, and art from fan favorite artists including Nick Gindraux, Ryan Church, John Park, Doug Chiang, Christian Alzmann and more!

AVAILABLE IN ALL GOOD STORES AND ONLINE  
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01 Giancarlo Esposito  
as Moff Gideon.





# THE ANTI-HERO'S JOURNEY

Actor Giancarlo Esposito tells *Star Wars Insider* how he sees a heroic side in Moff Gideon, the diabolical character he plays in *The Mandalorian*.

WORDS: JOHN KIRK

G

iancarlo Esposito knows how to play a convincing bad guy. Throughout his lengthy acting career

Esposito has portrayed some of film and television's most sinister characters, earning no less than three Emmy nominations for his role as the ruthless Gus Fring in *Breaking Bad* (2008-2013), which he reprised in its prequel series *Better Call Saul* (2015-2022). Currently playing Stanford "Stan" Edgar, a returning antagonist in *The Boys* (2019 - ), the actor is best known to *Star Wars* fans as Moff Gideon, the vicious commander of a sizeable faction of Imperial remnants operating near Nevarro, who has made Din Djarin and

Grogu's life increasingly difficult in the Disney+ series *Star Wars: The Mandalorian* (2019 - ).

With the third season of the hugely successful show currently streaming, *Insider* spoke with Esposito about the Moff, and how this affable, gregarious actor goes about inhabiting such roles so completely. We began by asking if he naturally gravitates towards playing "evil" characters?

"No. I look for a complete script," the actor replies. "I look for characters who are inspiring, and who move our imaginations from one place to another. It just so happens that I've been asked to play characters in certain projects that have had somewhat of an edge, a darker side, if you will," Esposito laughs. ▶





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**“I LOOK FOR CHARACTERS WHO ARE INSPIRING, AND WHO MOVE OUR IMAGINATIONS FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.”**

► The 64-year-old actor's screen career began with minor film roles, including “Cellmate #2” in *Trading Places* (1983) and “Man Getting Arrested” in *Brother from Another Planet* (1984). A less determined performer might have considered another career, but Esposito found regular work in numerous television shows in the 1990s, which saw him play everything from cops and crooks, to vampires and werewolves, before achieving international recognition as

02 Moff Gideon and his troops cornered Din Djarin and his friends on Nevarro.

03 Moff Gideon (Esposito) taking aim.

Gus Fring in the second season of *Breaking Bad*.

“When I was first asked to read for *Breaking Bad*, I had a conversation with Vince Gilligan (the series' creator) to discuss what the character of Gus was all about,” he says. “I wanted to communicate to Vince that our experience, what we bring to the table, is valuable. If you are enthused, inspired, and passionate about what you do in life, you show that. Long story short, I got the part,” he smiles. “I was inspired by their writing, and they [the producers] were inspired by what I was doing.”

Fring's public persona in the show was one of a law-abiding businessman known for his non-





04

profit endeavors on behalf of the city of Albuquerque, and this side of the character informed Esposito's approach to the role.

"I didn't want to play a stereotypical villain," he explains. "Gus came together for me personally from one stage direction in the script for my very first episode. It was hiding in plain sight, and I was so intrigued. How many times do you see someone like that go to work every day? Gus Fring did. That was his story: Everyone has a dark side to them, even when they do something every day."

### THE ANTI-HERO'S JOURNEY

While Fring—a fast-food entrepreneur with a sideline in manufacturing narcotics—might not be to every audience's taste, Esposito's turn as Moff Gideon in *The Mandalorian* made him famous around the world as the villain that

04 Esposito (center) with director Taika Waititi (right) on the Nevarro set.

05 Moff Gideon (Esposito) held Groggu prisoner in the Season Two finale.

06 Moff Gideon on the bridge of his *Arquitens*-class light cruiser.

07 Concept art by Brian Matyas.

fans of the show love to hate.

"It was hard to say no to Jon Favreau when he called to tell me he'd written a role for me!" the convivial Esposito laughs, reflecting on his casting. "It was a great honor. I knew it would be exciting, whether it had been *Star Wars* or some other story that spurred my imagination. But the world of *Star Wars* is one that I've admired since I was younger, and I've wanted to see films return to that mythological level of storytelling. That's something that I think the *Star Wars* franchise has done so very well.

"You know, I've loved working on *The Mandalorian* because it's about wonder and anticipation," he continues. "When Jon asked if I had

any requests for the character, I said, 'Yes. I want to have a cape like Darth Vader!'" he bursts into laughter again, eyes sparkling.

It's an old maxim that the villain is always the hero of their own story, and Esposito is very much of that opinion when it comes to Moff Gideon.

"I always look for a story that exemplifies the journey of a hero," he says. "With Moff Gideon I see it as being an anti-hero's story. What lies beneath the words and actions of the journey the character is on, a journey that we all take? Whether a hero realizes it or not, it encompasses courage or truth—that energy inside us that allows us to get to where we want to go. I'm committed to playing this guy ▶

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07



# "IT WAS HARD TO SAY NO TO JON FAVREAU."

► who thinks he is the master of the universe and that he can run it better than anyone else. Who is willing to push everyone's buttons!

"However, I attest that often the villain, the anti-hero, is really a fallen hero," Esposito adds. "They have the same qualities as the hero, but are characters who missed the mark, who wanted to be seen but didn't feel

heard, and overcoming that is, in its own way, a heroic journey."

## THE POWER OF POSITIVITY

Esposito reasons that Gideon's actions in *The Mandalorian* emphasize traits that define all classic screen villains: their willingness to step beyond the norms of protocol, to very much be seen.

"As in real life, where we are corralled into being orderly, there is an etiquette, a politeness to follow, a respect that we need to learn so as to remain within the lines that society says we should," he explains. "To become a rounded human being, one who respects others, is in service to the whole community. Through his vision, force of personality, and position of power, Moff Gideon forgot about those protocols."

Deeply philosophical in outlook, and eternally optimistic, Esposito is convinced that the Universe rewards those who think and act with positivity.

"Every person has something to offer," he says, expanding on the theme of using one's inner strength to achieve one's dreams. "When I say that, I mean that to be the best, you must seek out the best. If you are insecure (and most actors are insecure!), then act like you aren't. What you attract will come to you. If you spend ten minutes a day focusing on what it is that you want, then that will come to fruition as well, because we are a clear channel to the Universe. What do you want? Do you have

08



08 Giancarlo Esposito with Jon Favreau, creator and writer of *The Mandalorian*.

09 Esposito posing with a legion of stormtrooper extras on the set of *The Mandalorian*.

09





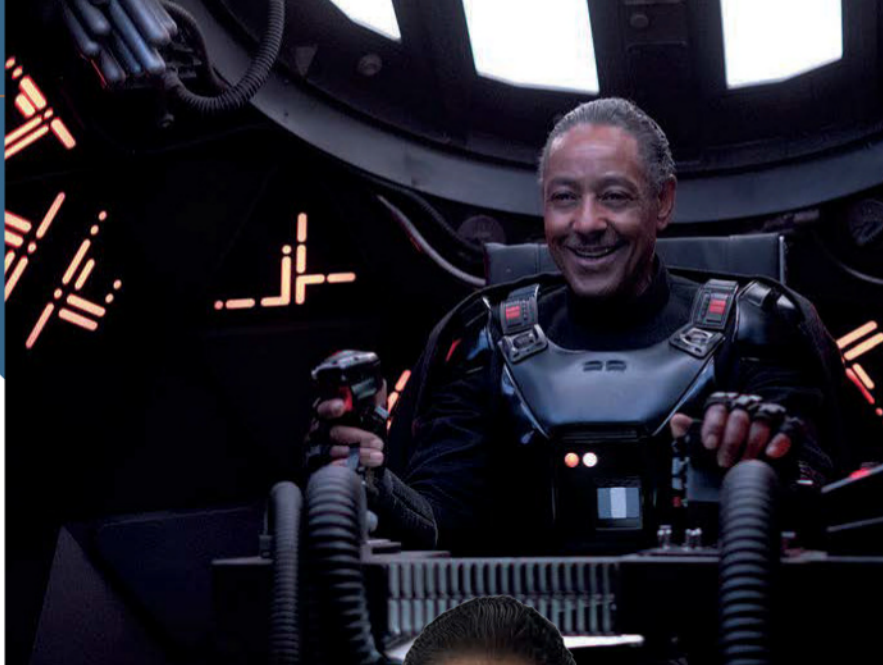
10 If a villain can't enjoy his job, who can?

11 Esposito's one request for his Moff Gideon costume was a cape like Darth Vader.

something I want? That's true of all of us—even a villain."

In Esposito's mind, knowing who you are and who you want to be, whether that's a hero or a villain, is the key to self-validation and how you value yourself.

"I like to think of myself on a journey with all humanity, but I like to create and play characters who have made themselves. And that's what it's all about: having fun, controlling the chaos, and being passionate about all your pursuits!" 🤖



## INSIDER INTEL

### MOFF GIDEON

During the reign of Emperor Palpatine, Gideon had been an officer in the Imperial Security Bureau and took an active and bloody role in the Great Purge of Mandalore.

After the Empire fell, Gideon united with others still loyal to its cause, fleeing to the Outer Rim to regroup as an Imperial remnant that sought to reassert their authority over the galaxy. Moff Gideon became obsessed with locating a Force-sensitive child whom he planned to exploit in a series of mysterious experiments. However, the youngling, Grogu, formed a bond with the Mandalorian bounty hunter who initially captured him, frustrating Gideon's plans.

The Moff would eventually deploy dark troopers to kidnap Grogu, but he did not account for Din Djarin's persistence and determination to rescue his clan son. When last seen, Gideon had been taken into the custody of a New Republic marshal to be tried for his war crimes.

11









# RETURN OF THE JEDI

## The End of the Beginning

While *Return of the Jedi* marked the final chapter of the original trilogy, it became the saga's first step into a larger world. *Insider* tracks the impact of the film's storyline on the past, present, and future of the *Star Wars* galaxy.

WORDS: JAY STOBIE

**T**he release of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* in 1983 was bittersweet for the legions of *Star Wars* fans around the world who had waited with bated breath for the finale of the thrilling trilogy. The big questions left hanging after the credits rolled on *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) had all been answered—Darth Vader really was Luke Skywalker's father; Han Solo had been saved from the clutches of Jabba the Hutt; the Emperor had been defeated; and Han and Leia were definitely still an item. The story George Lucas had sought to tell was finally complete, and the writer/director had made it clear that he was stepping away from the saga to concentrate his efforts elsewhere. The sense of finality left the unmistakable impression that *Star Wars* was over.

Fortunately, that impression has since been alleviated, thanks to another 8 feature films and numerous animated and live-action television projects, as well as videogames and books, expanding the galaxy ever further. In fact, when one looks back at the momentous events that occurred during *Return of the Jedi*'s 131 minute runtime, the film shouldn't be seen merely as the original trilogy's coda, but rather as the crucial axis upon which *Star Wars* storytelling has pivoted ever since. Let's take a look at how *Jedi*'s plot points seeded ideas that fed into the prequels, sequels, and other galactic eras.

### Questions, Questions, and More Questions

*Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977) introduced us to a galaxy besieged by an evil Galactic Empire, opposed by a plucky princess, a wide-eyed farmboy, an aged

**"It was left to *Return of the Jedi* to bring the story to a pleasing conclusion that resolved outstanding plot points."**

former Jedi Knight, and a ragtag team of droids and space pirates. There were hints at something called the Clone Wars, debts owed, and an Emperor by the name of Palpatine pulling the strings, but the order of the day was adventure and excitement. *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) added more depth to the saga's main protagonists while offering a rollercoaster ride through asteroid belts and an awesome cliffhanger ending. It was left ▶



► to *Return of the Jedi* to bring the story to a pleasing conclusion that resolved outstanding plot points and provided a satisfying end to the space-fantasy series. But in doing so, many new questions were raised, not least how the Emperor had brought down the Old Republic in the first place, and, more importantly, how Anakin Skywalker had been twisted by the dark side into Darth Vader.

Yoda's deathbed speech to Luke Skywalker, followed by the spirit of Obi-Wan's conversation with the young hero on Dagobah, granted closure as far as Darth Vader's identity and Leia's bloodline were concerned, but the two Jedi Masters dropped tantalizing hints at another tale of which we would not learn the full scope until almost two decades later. Yoda cautioned Luke not to underestimate the Emperor, while Obi-Wan insisted that Luke must bury his feelings to avoid them from being used to serve the Emperor. The prequels went on to illustrate precisely why the two Jedi issued these warnings, as Palpatine, then the supreme chancellor, had hidden from the Jedi Council in plain sight, undermining the Republic and the Jedi Order while portraying himself to be a mere politician. Palpatine's strategy involved

emotionally manipulating Anakin Skywalker, using Anakin's fear over losing Padmé Amidala to further edge him to the dark side, which led to Obi-Wan's later concern over Luke's own feelings.

Yoda's admonition regarding the role which anger, fear, and aggression played on the path to the dark side laid the groundwork for the prequels' explanation of Darth Vader's emergence, as Anakin's inability to control his emotions or let go of those he cherished proved pivotal to his fall. Obi-Wan's account of his friend's demise, ranging from his awe at Anakin's piloting skills and strength in the Force to his belief that he could train Anakin, manifested itself in *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999)'s pod racing sequence and Qui-Gon Jinn's dying plea that Obi-Wan should train the boy. Kenobi struggled to reign in Anakin's impulsive behavior throughout the prequels, whether it be his Padawan's instinctive rush to follow Zam Wesell into a Coruscant club or his urge to fight Count Dooku in a Geonosian cave. *Return of the Jedi* told us that Obi-Wan and Yoda were somehow well-acquainted with both Anakin and the Emperor, and the prequels showed us where those relationships began and how they evolved.

01 Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) resisted the manipulations of the Emperor (Ian McDiarmid).

02 Darth Vader (Hayden Christensen).



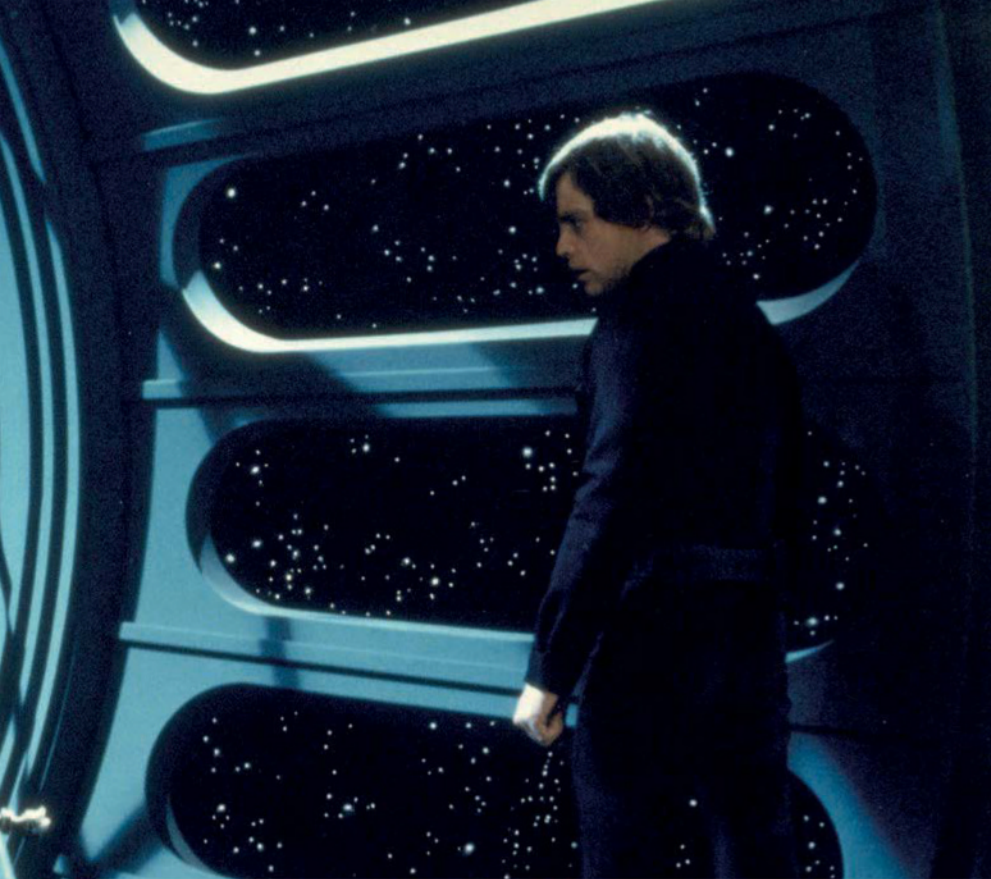
Furthermore, Obi-Wan's clarification that Anakin ceased to exist the moment he became Darth Vader bore fruit in *Obi-Wan Kenobi* (2022) when, following their final duel, Vader said that he'd "killed" Anakin, an act which Obi-Wan had blamed on himself. In his own discussion with Luke on the forest moon, Vader claimed that his old master once believed there was still good in him, an assertion that once again lined up perfectly with the *Obi-Wan Kenobi* duel, when the Jedi Knight finally came to accept that his friend was truly gone.

### Parallel Paths

While participating in a recent virtual speaker event with East Harlem School at Exodus House, George Lucas spoke on his view that greedy people live in fear, terrified that they will not acquire the power they seek and, if they do achieve their goals, they will become fearful over losing that influence. This observation offers insight into the reasons why Luke







**"The temptations Luke endured at Endor were echoed in the desires that Anakin believed Palpatine could fulfill in *Revenge of the Sith*."**

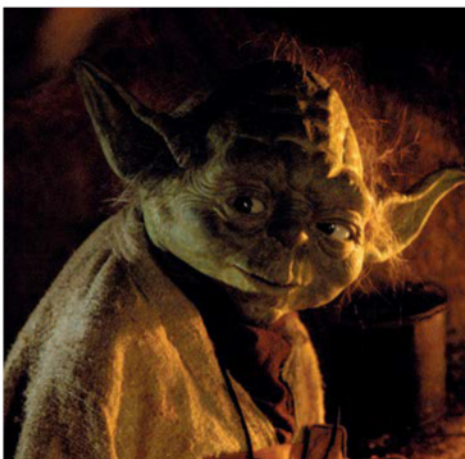
Skywalker stayed true to the light in *Return of the Jedi*, while his father succumbed to the dark side in *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith* (2005). Though Luke and Anakin each had humble childhoods, the elder Skywalker's aspirations with regards to the Jedi Council and inability to adhere to the Jedi Code transformed the boy's love into searing hatred. Anakin's passions ran so deep that they corrupted his perceptions to the point where he chose to use the Force to choke the very person he claimed he wanted to protect during a rageful outburst on Mustafar.

The temptations Luke endured at Endor were echoed in the desires that Anakin believed Palpatine could fulfill in *Revenge of the Sith*. So, how was the son able to resist what the father could not? The prequels explored the notion that nurture could overcome nature, as while Luke benefitted from the firm friendships he had forged with

03 Yoda warned Luke not to give in to his emotions.

Leia, Han, and others, Anakin was manipulated by Palpatine from a young age. Anakin established personal connections, but his fellow Jedi were more teachers than peers and, even when Kenobi and Anakin sat together on the Jedi Council, Skywalker was put in a subordinate position by not receiving the rank of Jedi Master. Thus, the very thought of losing Padmé, whom he saw as his one

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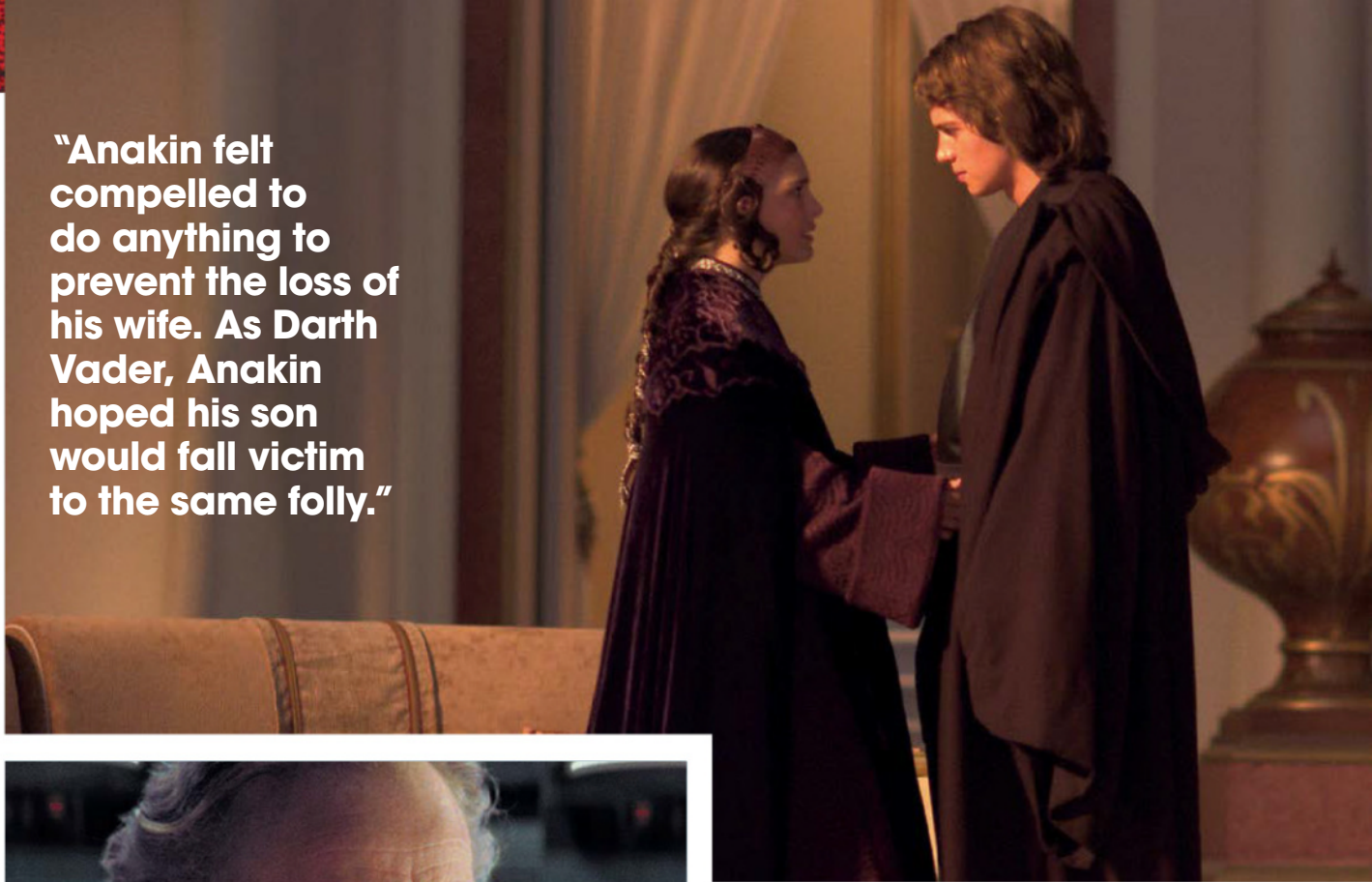
## I HAVE FORESEEN IT

The Emperor regularly spoke as if he knew precisely how the events unfolding at the forest moon would transpire. He had leaked the station's whereabouts, as well as his own presence onboard, as part of his plot to lay a trap and put an end to the Rebellion. This trait was further explored in the prequel trilogy, as Palpatine rose from senator to supreme chancellor by secretly setting the invasion of Naboo in motion. Additionally, Palpatine orchestrated the destructive Clone War, thus paving the way for his ascent to Emperor, the Republic's downfall, and the eradication of the Jedi Order.

The Emperor's desire to have Luke Skywalker replace Darth Vader as his younger and potentially more powerful apprentice also showed itself to be a recurring play in the Sith Lord's arsenal, as he willingly sacrificed Count Dooku to make way for Anakin Skywalker to become Darth Vader. Let's just say that being Palpatine's apprentice did not offer much job security!



**"Anakin felt compelled to do anything to prevent the loss of his wife. As Darth Vader, Anakin hoped his son would fall victim to the same folly."**



04 Anakin's love for Padmé Amidala (Natalie Portman) was a valuable tool in Palpatine's arsenal.

05 The prequel trilogy showed how Palpatine built his Empire through subterfuge.

## New Beginnings

Yoda's statement about underestimating the Emperor had personal implications on Luke's conflict with his father, but the Jedi Master's wisdom also held hints for the prequels. As supreme chancellor, Palpatine concealed his calculating ways and dark side abilities from the Jedi without garnering any Sith-related suspicions. Yoda and the Jedi Order learned far too late that Palpatine had masterminded the Separatist movement to instigate the Clone Wars, which he used to further consolidate his power and undermine the Republic. Yoda's failure to best Palpatine in a duel represented his own underestimation of the Sith Lord. These hard-fought lessons correlated to the advice that Yoda gave to Luke just before he passed away.

The aptly named *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008-2020) series ran with these concepts, adding layers to the hints raised in *Return of the Jedi* and explanations given in the prequels, but with the advantage of 133 episodes in which to expand and extrapolate. Palpatine's plots deepened, as he

► true friend, ended up igniting the very aggression that Luke proved capable of quelling in *Return of the Jedi*.

Yoda's message to Luke about the emotions that set one on the path to the dark side were given new meaning in the prequels, as Yoda sensed Anakin's inner turmoil when he first met the boy and witnessed these traits simmer and swell to turn Anakin's good intentions into a capacity for violence and murder. The Emperor also recognized this parallel, claiming Luke's compassion would be his undoing and stating that Luke's friends on the forest moon would perish. However, Luke's faith in his friends and the wisdom given to him by Yoda supplied the moral conviction and emotional

restraint that Anakin had lacked when he agreed to become Palpatine's apprentice.

Anakin's lack of emotional control also displayed itself through the visions he experienced relating to Padmé's death in childbirth. Always acting on his emotions, Anakin felt compelled to do anything to prevent the loss of his wife. As Darth Vader, Anakin hoped his son would fall victim to the same folly, attempting to exploit Luke's emotions once he realized that Leia was Luke's long-lost sister. This echo in the prequels offers further intrigue when one considers that Darth Vader's instability was a driving factor in Yoda and Obi-Wan's decision to hide and separate the twins in the first place!





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sought to get the Hutts to ally with the Separatists against the Republic in the *The Clone Wars* (2008) film and hired Cad Bane to acquire a Jedi holocron to identify Force-sensitive children in Season Two, Episode I “Holocron Heist.” Anakin Skywalker’s reliance on emotion and attachment resurfaced on several occasions, from the anger he felt over Padmé’s association with Clovis in Season 6, Episode 6 “The Rise of Clovis,” to the fear he experienced concerning visions of his future with the dark side in Season 3, Episode 17 “Ghosts of Mortis.” Anakin’s emotional distress underscored Obi-Wan’s confession to Luke that he had been wrong to think he could train Anakin.

By introducing Duchess Satine Kryze and the Mandalorians, *The Clone Wars* demonstrated that Obi-Wan Kenobi knew the sting of attachment more than Anakin had realized, while Ahsoka Tano’s trial further underlined Skywalker’s doubts about the Jedi. Tano and the

06 The Skywalker lineage was shockingly revealed in *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980).

07 Father and son, about to meet their destiny in *Return of the Jedi* (1983).

08 Duchess Satine Kryze with Obi-Wan Kenobi.

09 The fate of Boba Fett proved not to have been in the belly of the Sarlacc after all.

## THE END OF THE BEGINNING

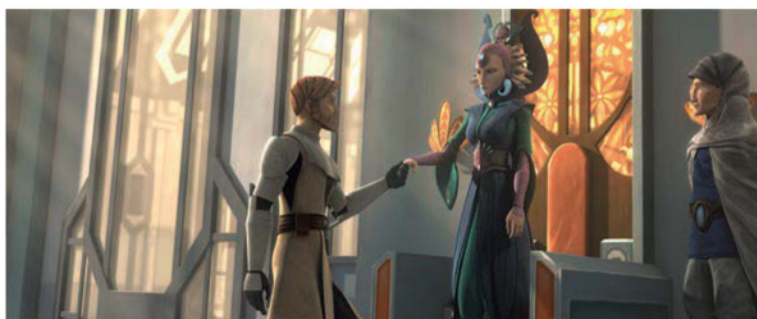
Mandalorians then reappeared in *Star Wars Rebels* (2014-2018), before they, as well as Satine’s sister Bo-Katan Kryze and bounty hunter Cad Bane, jumped from animation to live-action in *The Mandalorian* (2019 - ) and *The Book of Boba Fett* (2022). Along with Din Djarin and Boba Fett, these characters helped shape the post-*Return of the Jedi* landscape. Bo-Katan’s recommendation that Djarin find Tano helped propel Grogu to be Luke’s very first academy student, thus fulfilling Yoda’s request for Luke to pass on what he had learned.

In the throne room, Luke Skywalker declared that the Emperor’s overconfidence was his weakness, an observation that rang true as his forces fell to the Rebel Alliance at the Battle of Endor. Although *Return of the Jedi* ended on a hopeful note, the same complacency became evident within *The Mandalorian*’s New Republic, as law enforcement officers such as Carson Teva did not have the

resources to adequately patrol the Outer Rim. Crime syndicates operated without consequence, leaving local marshals like Cobb Vanth to stand alone. These happenings set the stage for what was to come decades later during the sequel trilogy.

### Looking Back, Moving Forward

Most assumed *Return of the Jedi*’s aftermath would be filled with hard-won galactic peace and goodwill, but the consequences that stemmed from the war turned out to be much more complex. The seemingly small act of rescuing Han Solo set an unexpected course of events in motion, as Boba Fett’s brief confinement in the Sarlacc led to the stay with a Tusken tribe that altered his outlook on life. A power vacuum was created by Jabba the Hutt’s death, thus permitting Fett the chance to become Tatooine’s new daimyo. Now imagine the galaxy-wide instability that toppling a government, even



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## MON MOTHMA

The briefing aboard Admiral Ackbar's starship *Home One* introduced us to Mon Mothma, a soft-spoken leader who paired her intelligence report with compassion for the Bothan spies who had lost their lives to attain the information. *Andor* (2022 - ) has provided us with a fresh perspective on the politician, showcasing her reputation as a naive idealist and her initial hesitance to engage in a violent rebellion while still highlighting her empathy for the worlds being subjugated by the Empire. In *Andor*, we can easily see how Luthen Rael's ongoing influence could have led her to believe that military action was not only necessary but unavoidable.

▶ one as evil as the Empire, could unleash upon countless systems and citizens. Cautious in the wake of the Empire's might, the New Republic's reduced military spread itself thin, leaving room for Imperial holdouts such as Moff Gideon to fester. By devoting much of its fleet to the defense of its capital, the New Republic made itself susceptible to a devastating strike from the First Order's Starkiller Base.

In certain areas, the sequels naturally picked up where *Return of the Jedi* left off. Luke followed through on his claim that Leia could learn to harness the Force as he had and sought to pass on Yoda's teachings through his own Jedi Academy. Leia and Han's romance continued, resulting in the birth of Ben Solo, a Force-sensitive son who was sent off to Luke's academy. On the other hand, these events did not play out in ways our heroes necessarily hoped they would. Leia opted to abandon her training when she realized she was pregnant and, while she wielded the Force to save herself after the attack on the *Raddus* in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017), focused more

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10 Han Solo and Leia Organa's relationship had already been shattered by events prior to *The Force Awakens* (2015).

on stemming the rising tide of the First Order through political means. This effort was hampered by her son's fall to the dark side, an act that resulted in the deaths of Luke's students, the destruction of Luke's Jedi temple, Luke's self-imposed exile, and a strained marriage for Leia and Han.

As with the prequels, the warnings Yoda and Obi-Wan delivered to Luke on Dagobah concerning Palpatine's deceptions rippled throughout the sequel trilogy. The Sith Lord thought several moves ahead of his enemies, escaping death above the forest moon by having prepared a clone of himself to embody. *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* (2019) unveiled the scope of Palpatine's contingency

11 The battle between light and dark continued in the sequel trilogy with Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) and Rey (Daisy Ridley).

11





**"In certain areas, the sequels naturally picked up where *Return of the Jedi* left off."**



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plan, as he had created Snoke, established the First Order, and guided Ben's evolution into Kylo Ren from the shadows of Exegol. Palpatine even learned from Vader's betrayal, as Snoke was a puppet rather than an apprentice.

Fathered by a rogue Palpatine clone, Rey became another element in the Emperor's grand scheme. Rey's journey brought her to an embittered Luke, whose frustration over losing his school and failing to prevent Ben's fall was made worse by his perception that he had cost Leia her son. In a full circle moment, Yoda appeared on Ahch-To to explain to Luke that, in addition to his successes, he needed to pass on his failures. Luke's sacrifice on Crait opened the

12 The First Order's Starkiller Base.

13 Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis) was little more than a puppet.

14 Emperor Palpatine survived his apparent death in *Return of the Jedi* to plot his return to power.

15 The Battle of Endor marked the fall of the Empire, but galactic history didn't end there.



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door for Rey's escape, which gave her time to train, help redeem Ben, and defeat the Emperor. In an homage to Luke observing a trio of Force spirits on Endor, *The Rise of Skywalker* concluded with Rey witnessing Luke and Leia appear before her on Tatooine.

The Battle of Endor was a momentous event that changed

the course of history in the *Star Wars* galaxy, but the consequences of the events and conversations that took place in *Return of the Jedi* have provided a rich source of storytelling potential, informing the many new tales set in the galaxy far, far away that we continue to enjoy to this day. Long may its influence remain. 🙌



15



A full-page photograph of Antonio Viña as Kassa in a scene from Star Wars: Andor. He is standing in a dimly lit, industrial corridor, holding a long, dark, textured staff or weapon. He wears a yellow, quilted tunic with a brown belt and brown, worn-in boots. The background shows metallic walls and a grated floor.

# KASSA

Antonio Viña talks to *Insider* about portraying the younger version of Diego Luna's Cassian Andor in the Disney+ series *Star Wars: Andor*.

WORDS: JAY STOBIE



**I**n *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016), Cassian Andor revealed that he'd been fighting since he was six years old. This chilling revelation was fully explored in the Disney+ series *Star Wars: Andor* (2022 - ), in which Diego Luna reprised his role as a younger, somewhat dissolute version of the eventual rebel hero. But Luna wasn't the only actor to inhabit the role as newcomer Antonio Viña was given the opportunity to play an even younger Cassian. *Insider* recently spoke with Viña about his experiences making the series.



Diego is one of my idols and a huge inspiration. He grew up in a town not far from where I live, so it gives me hope that I too can also become a successful actor.

**How did you feel about auditioning for a part in a *Star Wars* series?**

I got really excited. I went to three castings. The first one was in English, but at that point I was not very comfortable with the language. My mom told me I should do it anyway to gain experience in auditioning in another language. I knew it would be a challenge, but that it would bring me closer to my dream. ▶

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**"GROWING UP, I HAD ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO DIEGO LUNA AND STUDIED HIS ACTING CLOSELY."**

***Star Wars Insider*:** Do you recall the moment you were first introduced to the *Star Wars* saga?

**Antonio Viña:** I was gifted DVDs of the first three *Star Wars* movies about four years ago and became very interested in watching the rest of them. Watching those films with my dad has been something we've bonded over, and *Rogue One* quickly became one of our favorites.

We were proud to see someone like Diego Luna, a Mexican actor, as a main character in *Star Wars*.

02 Kassa's Kenari group.

03 Viña played a younger version of Cassian in *Andor*.

04 Diego Luna as Cassian Andor.



04



"I WAS SO  
EXCITED TO  
GO INSIDE  
THE REPUBLIC  
SPACESHIP."

► Filming took place in the U.K., which was perhaps the furthest you'd been from Mexico. That must have been quite the experience for you?

My dad and I traveled to London for what I thought was going to be a final casting session, so I had prepared for the scene and memorized my lines. When I arrived at Pinewood Studios, I entered an office and saw Diego, and my jaw dropped! *Andor's* executive producers Tony Gilroy and Sanne Wohlenberg were sitting with him. That is when I learned I'd been auditioning for *Star Wars*, and I couldn't believe it. Tony informed us that I had been chosen to play young Cassian. We were so happy my dad even ran up to hug Diego. It was a dream come true!

In order to prepare for the role, did you use any specific scenes from *Rogue One* as inspiration?

Growing up, I had always looked up to Diego Luna and studied his acting closely. In a sense, I already modeled my acting after him. When I landed this role, I took fragments of Cassian's traits in *Rogue One* and envisioned what a younger version of him would be like, and how he became who he is in *Rogue One*.

Were you able to compare notes with Diego about the character?

Diego was incredibly busy and in Scotland while I was filming my scenes at Pinewood Studios, so we only met fleetingly. We didn't have an opportunity to talk much regarding the character. He did

05 Kassa (Viña) exploring the crashed Republic ship.

06 Mined until its natural resources were spent, Kenari was decreed as off limits by the Republic.

07 Kassa's group prepare to approach the stricken Republic ship.

congratulate me when I was given the role, though. That was very special to me.

Toby Haynes directed the three episodes of *Andor* you were in. How did he help you bring Kassa to life on set?

Toby did a great deal in helping me understand the character. There were many things he suggested I do as we filmed. He also made sure I was comfortable on set.

In one scene, where Kassa had to look very sad and angry at the same time, Tony suggested I run up and down a hill a bunch of times so that I would genuinely look upset [laughs]. I owe a lot to him and hope to work with him again.





## Antonio Viña CAREER PROFILE

Since attending the Centro de Educación Artística (CEA) Televisa in México, Antonio Viña has already appeared in a handful of productions in the early stages of his career. In addition to portraying Kassa in *Andor* (2022- ), Viña's growing list of acting credits include *Imposters* (2018), *José José: El príncipe de la canción* (2018), *Claramente* (2019), *Armas blancas* (2021), as well as an appearance in the music video for El Expediente Sama's song, "Que me das amor."



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### What was it like performing alongside so many other young actors during the scenes on Kenari?

It was great to work with them, but it was also a challenge because I was the only actor who didn't speak good English. All the other actors who played my friends on Kenari were from the United Kingdom, so being a non-English speaker made it difficult to communicate with them. They were very kind to me, though. They tried to teach me some English, but it was difficult to be learning Kenari and English at the same time.

08 Antonio Viña as Kassa.

09 Cassian never forgot his sister, who he had to leave behind on Kenari.

10 Kassa (Viña) aboard the *Andor's* salvage vessel.

### Do you have a favorite memory from your time on set?

I was so excited to go inside the Republic spaceship. I ran everywhere to check everything out, but I had to remember to remain professional and film my scene. It was hard to contain my excitement [laughs].

My dad and I were shown around some of the sets, like Mon Mothma's house. I watched Genevieve O'Reilly [Mothma] walking with Ben Miles [playing Tay Kolma]. The most impressive things on that set were the two giant screens where they projected

animation of the Coruscant skyline beyond the windows, just like we saw them in the prequels—the traffic flying around all the buildings. It was so cool!

Tony Gilroy took us to the set where the Aldhani robbery was being filmed. He showed us inside the ship and several props, including the Imperial credits that were being stolen. It would have been great to have been able to take some home as a souvenir, but sadly I wasn't allowed.

I also loved hanging out with the other Kenari members in the hills. It was such a great time! 🥰

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# YUB NUB!

## 40 YEARS OF THE EWOKS

In celebration of *Return of the Jedi*'s 40th anniversary, *Insider* gathered three of the film's Ewok performers—Margo Apostolos (Tokkat), Kevin Thompson (Chubbray), and Mike Edmonds (Logray)—to reminisce on their adventures on the Forest Moon of Endor.

WORDS: BRANDON WAINERDI





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stute fans know that 2023 marks 40 years since the premiere of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* (1983).

That means it has also been 40 years since a certain tribe of adorable-yet-feisty furry bipeds appeared on screen: the Ewoks.

In order to bring the ferocious and cuddly Ewoks to life, many talented performers donned the Stuart Freeborn-designed masks and headed deep into the woods, both in Crescent City, California, as well as on the soundstages of England. Margo Apostolos, Kevin Thompson, and Mike Edmonds were among their number.

**Star Wars Insider: What was your experience with acting and performing before being cast in *Return of the Jedi*?**

**Margo Apostolo:** I was working in retail. Then I went to a short people's convention, and seemingly everyone there was auditioning for a movie called *Under the Rainbow* (1981), which starred Chevy Chase and Carrie Fisher. So, I auditioned as well, and I got that show. Then I got a few more parts, including in *The Incredible Hulk* (1977-1982) TV series.

Eventually, the person who had hired me for *Under the Rainbow* called me up and asked if I was interested in auditioning for a new production called *Blue Harvest*. And, well, we all know what that movie ended up being!

**Kevin Thompson:** I was very lucky and had a wonderful teacher who had previously been successful in the entertainment industry. It was a little like *Mr. Holland's Opus* (1995): one day, he decided to take a break from the business and teach for a couple of years, and suddenly he had a 30-year teaching career!

His teaching style was to give us 16-millimeter cameras and tell us to go out and film. Of course, film stock and processing were expensive! To make the money back we sold tickets for our own film festival called "The Montage," which always sold out. It was an incredible experience, and I learned a lot about acting and moviemaking. From there, I began auditioning and

01 A group of Ewoks from *Return of the Jedi* (1983), including Margo Apostolos as Tokkat (second from left).





- ▶ performing professionally, and went from *Under the Rainbow* to *Blade Runner* (1982) as Bear, to then auditioning for this new, mysterious project.

**Mike Edmonds:** Before *Return of the Jedi*, I had appeared in *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980). I was an Ugnaught in the carbon freezing chamber scene. I had also been in *Flash Gordon* (1980) and *Time Bandits* (1981), among other projects.

### What exactly was the audition process for *Blue Harvest*?

**MA:** We had to do some extensive training for the audition first, with a choreographer who taught us all these movements. We limbered up and moved around, running and doing little drills. They really had to make sure that we'd be able to perform

was very impressed after I showed him a couple of the easier moves that I could do.

He then explained that I wasn't going to be able to see well on the set, so I started to run around with my eyes closed, doing gymnastic moves without the use of my sight. He was really impressed with that. I got the job, and then had to fly to England so the Ewok suits could be refitted in order to make them "stunt-worthy."

Two of the others, Felix Silla and Bobby Porter, were chosen because they were the two top stuntmen around; they had been doing children's stunts for a long time. So, I was really lucky, because half of the stunt parts were actually already penciled in.

**ME:** I didn't audition, actually. Robert Watts (producer, *Empire*

02



**02** The Endor exterior scenes were shot in a Californian redwood forest.

**03** Kay Freeborn preparing fur for an Ewok mask.

**04** Kevin Thompson played Chubbray (far right).

03

and *Jedi*) remembered me from my work on *The Empire Strikes Back* and offered me the part of Logray, the medicine man of the Ewoks. He also gave me the job of tail operator, inside Jabba the Hutt.

### What was it like arriving on set for the first time?

**KT:** We were under the impression that it was just an offshoot of *Star Wars*, not the real thing. At the time, we all still thought that we



our roles, especially while wearing the Ewok suits. George Lucas picked out each of us while we were doing all that stuff. I think he chose around 40 or 50 performers, from the 100 or so people who tried out.

**KT:** There were about 30 people trying out for the parts of four stunt people at my audition. We all went in, interviewed, and then showed off what we could do. Since I was a gymnast in high school and college, as well as a street mime, I was able to demonstrate a lot of the skills they were looking for. Glenn Randall Jr., the stunt coordinator,

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**“At the time, we all still thought that we were doing this movie called *Blue Harvest*.”**  
**Kevin Thompson**  
**(Chubbray)**



were doing this movie called *Blue Harvest*.

**MA:** It went from being *Blue Harvest* to *Revenge of the Jedi* to, eventually, *Return of the Jedi*. We were completely sworn to secrecy!

**KT:** When I walked on set, the first thing I saw was the Ewok village. Then I looked around a bit more and there were stormtrooper helmets everywhere. When I spotted Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker) and Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia), I knew that we weren't in Kansas anymore. One thing people don't realize is that there were two different

**05** C-3PO was mistaken for a god by the Ewoks, including the tribe's shaman, Logray.

**06** Mike Edmonds as Logray (left).

Ewok shoots for *Jedi*: the village scenes were all shot in the U.K., while the battle scenes were all shot in America. Only a few people were in both shoots, including Jack Purvis, Kenny Baker, Mike Edmonds, and Warwick Davis.

#### What was your role in the movie?

**KT:** In *Jedi*, I actually played ten different Ewoks. If you watch the film, at the very beginning of the battle, I was in 13 of the first 15 Ewok scenes. I am particularly proud of being the Ewok that swung into the village. It was a really hairy stunt, because I had to land on a gate that was made up of spiked posts. However, I completely trusted the crew. My gymnastics training came

**05**

in handy, but it was still radically different to a normal swing, because I was in the cumbersome Ewok suit.

**MA:** I was in a dark brown suit, which looked black on film, playing Tokkat the Ewok warrior. So, I did things like take the gun out of Han Solo's hand and help carry Artoo-Detoo on a stretcher. When See-Threepio sat up, and we were all bowing, I'm the Ewok right behind him. I was also in the bow-and-arrow scenes, jumping off the log, and running around like a a little scaredy-cat (*laughs*). I even ran through the explosions!

**06**

Glenn Randall Jr. came up to me, asking if I knew any more people who could do some of the more intense scenes. I had been playing on a basketball team called the Hollywood Shorties, which was the smallest professional basketball team in the world. I called up some of my teammates, including Tony Cox, Chris Romano, and Michael Gilden. We were all so young and so full of energy. By the time we would get back to the hotel, after a long day of running back and forth with explosions going off on Endor, we would play basketball until dark. When you're 22 years old, that's just what you do. ▶



#### TOKKAT

**Played by Margo Apostolos**

Armed with a bow and arrow, dark-furred Tokkat was among the Ewok warriors who helped rout the Imperial forces during the Battle of Endor.





## CHUBBRAY

**Played by Kevin Thompson**

A member of the scouting party that captured Han Solo, Chewbacca, Luke Skywalker, and droids C-3PO and R2-D2, Chubbray later assisted the rebels in their assault on an Imperial bunker.

### ► What were the biggest challenges of being an Ewok?

**KT:** Explosions. Glenn had 35 extras running around, with explosions everywhere. However, we came through unscathed and no one got hurt. It was all very well organized.

The first time I saw the Ewok outfits, I thought, "Wow, these things are huge." It took some getting used to. First we put on our baby blue pajamas, then we were covered with



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two inches of foam rubber, then we put a fur coat over that. Next, we would put on the latex hands, feet, and mask, and *then* we were supposed to run a 50-yard-dash and come back and do it all over again! For stunts, we changed the suits up a little bit, making the gloves into something that we could really hang on with.



### Were there any other moments that stuck out to you during filming?

**MA:** Have you ever heard about the time that the Ewoks went on strike? We had T-shirts made up for us that said, "REVENGE OF THE EWOKS" on the front. We had our coach driver drop us off early, so when the bus turned up on set and it was empty the crew asked the driver, "Where are your Ewoks?" And he told them, "They're on strike. They're not coming."

And then we paraded down the hill chanting, "REVENGE! REVENGE! REVENGE!" We had them scared (*laughs*).

**KT:** I remember that Warwick Davis (Wicket W. Warrick) was just something else. He was only 11 years old at the time of filming and was a bright ray of sunshine on set.

**"I did things like take the gun out of Han Solo's hand and help carry Artoo-Detoo on a stretcher."**

**Margo Apostolos (Tokkat)**

07

No matter who they were, he would walk up and ask, "Hello, who are you?" And no matter whether it was a grip or a best boy, he would ask a ton of questions about their job and what they did. He was very interested in the whole process and in every person on set.

**ME:** There are so many great memories. But working in that giant Redwood Forest in California will always stay with me, performing alongside all of the other little American guys. It was hard work, but it was a lot of fun.

**MA:** Yeah, really, above all else, I remember having fun beating up on the stormtroopers. That's what they told us to do! "Go beat up on the stormtroopers!" We had rubber

07 R2-D2 actor Kenny Baker doubled up as an Ewok performer for *Return of the Jedi*.

08 Scenes in the Ewok village were filmed at Elstree Studios in London.

09 Margo Apostolos played the Ewok responsible for disarming Han Solo.

09







10



11



mallets in our hands and took the direction literally at first. But it was all pretend."

**After four decades, what do you think the legacy of the Ewoks has meant to you and your life?**

**ME:** I've been lucky to be in many movies and productions since. Much like getting my roles in *Jedi*, it was through Robert Watts that I was eventually cast as "Stretch" in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* (1988).

10 Warwick Davis (right, playing Wicket) was "a bright ray of sunshine on set," according to Kevin Thompson.

11 Stormtroopers caught off guard by the fiery Ewoks.

12 *Ewoks: Caravan of Courage* (1984).



## LOGRAY

**Played by Mike Edmonds**

Easily identifiable by striped markings of his fur and ceremonial headdress featuring an animal skull and feathers, Logray was the shaman of the Ewok village during the Imperial occupation of Endor.

**KT:** After *Jedi* wrapped, I was one of the lucky ones to be picked for both Ewok TV movies, *Caravan of Courage* (1984) and *The Battle for Endor* (1985). In *Caravan*, I played Chukha-Trok, the warrior Ewok. For the sequel, they brought me back as a stunt performer.

We have a great community of the performers who played Ewoks, especially since we've attended many conventions together over the years. And, of course, it has been great meeting the fans.

**MA:** I work at Disneyland, now. When people find out that I was an Ewok, they start freaking out. I like seeing their expressions because it was such an honor that I got to do that show.

It's just so hard to believe that it's been 40 years. It truly feels like it was yesterday. ☺

12







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**Epic Maul  
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A thorn in the side of the Jedi Knights long beyond his apparent death on Naboo, Maul is the *Star Wars* villain we love to hate—and to collect! Among the finest Maul collectibles is this stunning *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008-2020) 1/6-scale Milestone Statue from Gentle Giant Ltd, and we've got one to give away to a lucky *Insider* reader.

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- A. Savage Optics**
- B. Salivating Orbak**
- C. Savage Opress**

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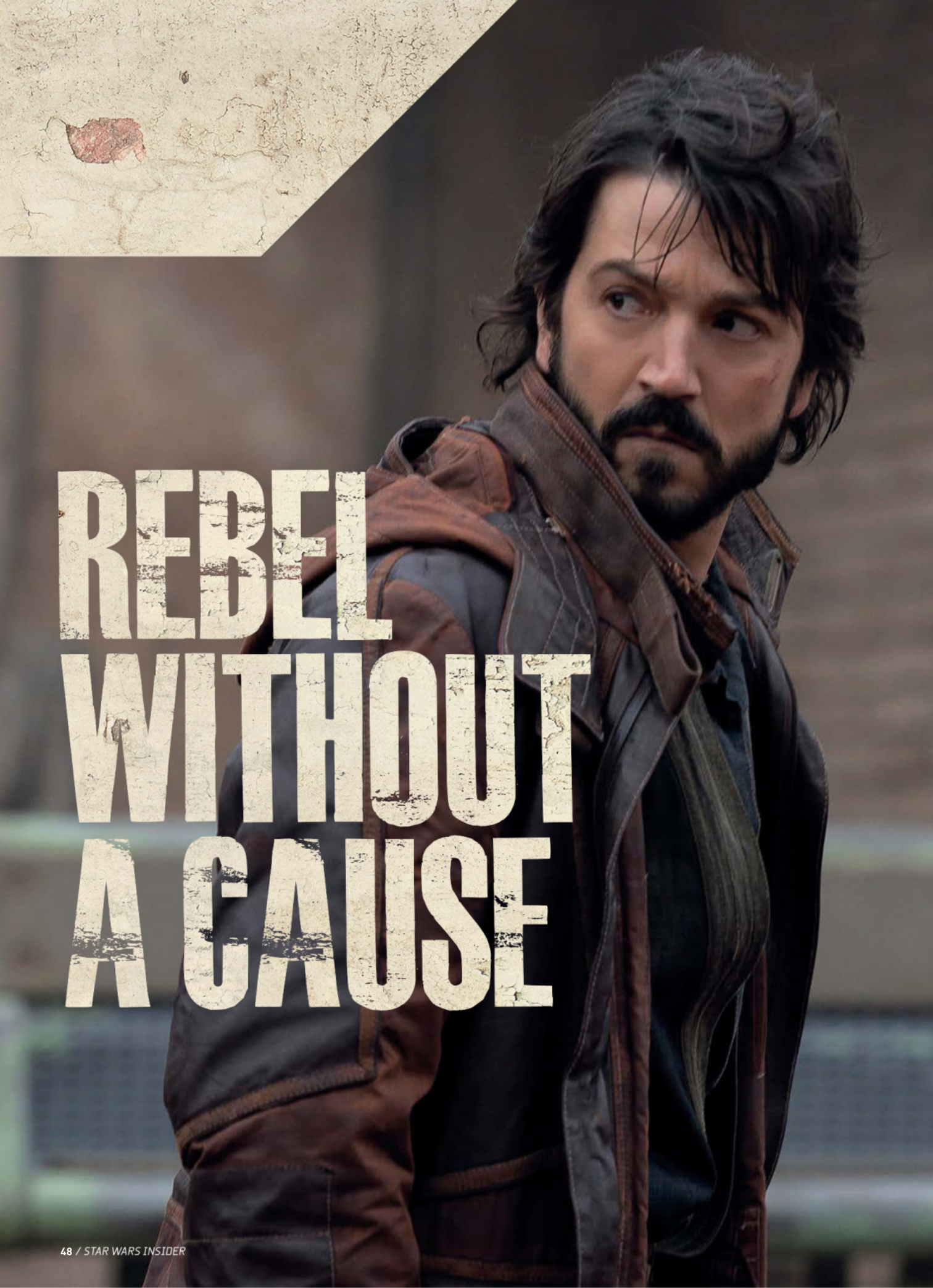


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# STAR WARS ANDOR

## SEASON ONE COMPANION

Across twelve episodes, Season One of *Andor* brought the gritty realism and high tension of a spy thriller to the galaxy far, far away. *Insider's* series companion follows Cassian Andor's journey from drifter to rebel, with input from members of the cast and series creator Tony Gilroy.

WORDS: CHRISTOPHER COOPER  
INTERVIEWS: TARA BENNETT

**T**he *Star Wars* galaxy is no stranger to prequels, expanding on events alluded to in the original trilogy and films and TV series from *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999) to *Obi-Wan Kenobi* (2022).

*Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016) revealed the events surrounding the theft of the Death Star plans and intersected directly with the escapades of our heroes from *A New Hope* (1977), while adopting the serious style of a war movie in place of the derring-do space opera of the source material. *Andor* (2022 - ) went even further in its first season, with a sense of

grounded reality permeating the intense drama.

"*Rogue One* was a film about an event," says Diego Luna, star of the recent Disney+ series. "We didn't get to understand exactly where Cassian came from. So, for me it was quite relevant to tell the story of what needed to happen for a revolutionary to emerge, to exist, to come to life. What makes someone willing to sacrifice everything for a cause? That journey mattered to me."

It was also what drew Tony Gilroy, the creator of *Andor*, to the idea of a series that would follow Cassian's journey right up to the opening scenes of *Rogue One*.

"We know where *Andor* ends up," says Gilroy. "We know how

accomplished and complicated he becomes. The idea that we could create a story that literally takes him from his childhood origins and through a five-year odyssey to a moment in history where huge events are happening, and real people are being crushed by it—an example of a revolution all the way through to the end—that was the buy-in for me."

"This is a show about real people in very dark times for the galaxy. These people are having to articulate a reaction to oppression," adds Luna. "It's intimate and very subtle, and it takes its time to understand each character. It's the most grounded kind of *Star Wars* you'll get, but it has all the adventure and action you'd expect." ▶





## EPISODE 1 KASSA

**Directed by** Toby Haynes  
**Written by** Tony Gilroy  
**Premiered:** September 21, 2022

Searching for his long-lost sister, Cassian Andor visits a salubrious venue on Morlana One, a planet in the Morlana sector. Challenged by a pair of sentry guards as he leaves, Cassian is forced to kill them both in self-defense and flees the scene of the crime.

Returning home to Ferrix, Cassian needs urgent funds to go on the run. He asks his friend, Bix Caleen, to set up a meeting with her contact who has an interest in purchasing stolen Imperial technology.

Meanwhile, Syril Karn—a Pre-Mor deputy inspector—reports the murder of the guards to his superior but is ordered to cover it up as an accident to avoid Imperial interference. However, with Chief Inspector Hyne called away for a meeting off-world, the ambitious Syril instead doubles down on the search for the offender and discovers that an unidentified ship left Morlana One on the night of the crime, bound for Ferrix. The hunt is on for its pilot, a Kenari male.



### INSIDER INTEL

## CASSIAN ANDOR

**Played by**  
Diego Luna

"Cassian said things in *Rogue One* that have haunted me," says Diego Luna. "That he started to fight when he was six years old. What does that mean, exactly? Why would a six year old miss his childhood and start a fight? He talked about doing terrible stuff for the Rebellion. What was he referring to? I think that story matters. That story is interesting."

## FLASHBACK

A group of children living in the forests of Kenari watch a Republic transport crashlanding. Young Kassa and his sister, Kerri, are among them. The older children make plans to find the ship and search it for supplies, and Kassa is determined to go with them.





# EPISODE 2 THAT WOULD BE ME

**Directed by** Toby Haynes  
**Written by** Tony Gilroy  
**Premiered:** September 21, 2022

Maarva Andor is concerned for her adopted son's safety when she learns that Pre-Mor security forces are searching for a Kenari native. Cassian reassures her that there's no way they could know where he was really from, but he continues to make plans for a fast escape.



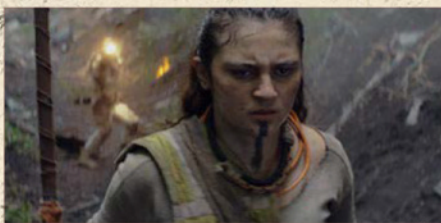
Cassian speaks to Bix, who has set up a meeting with her mysterious buyer, but both are unaware that her jealous boyfriend, Timm Karlo, has been spying on them. Angry, and hoping to protect his lover from

Cassian, Timm anonymously tips off the authorities.

Armed with Cassian's name and location, Deputy Inspector Syril Karn assembles a Pre-Mor security squad to hurry to Ferrix to arrest their suspect.

## FLASHBACK

Kassa and his friends find the wreckage of a Republic transport, but the only survivor of its crew is armed and dangerous. The children overpower him, but not before he kills their leader with a blaster bolt.



# EPISODE 3 RECKONING

**Directed by** Toby Haynes  
**Written by** Tony Gilroy  
**Premiered:** September 21, 2022

Luthen Rael, Bix's contact, arrives on Ferrix and meets with the mechanic before heading to the warehouse where his rendezvous with Cassian will take place. Meanwhile, Syril Karn and his forces search Maarva's home, with a warrant for her son's arrest.

When Cassian contacts the family's salvage-assist droid B2EMO by radio, Karn's troops trace the transmission and converge on Andor's location. Unaware that Pre-Mor tactical forces

are heading towards the warehouse, Luthen offers Cassian a chance to work with him against the Empire, but Andor is reluctant. A commotion created by the locals outside warns them of the approaching danger, and a gunfight ensues with a panicked tactical squad. Barely escaping with their lives, Cassian and Luthen create havoc as they steal a speeder bike and flee the planet aboard Rael's ship, leaving Syril Karn and his troops defeated and in shock.



## FLASHBACK

While his tribe carry the body of their dead leader away from the Republic transport, Kassa explores the stricken ship, eventually finding its engine room which he sets about wrecking. Maarva and Clem Andor, along with their droid B2EMO, are also onboard, planning to scavenge the ship's valuable fuel nodules. From there, the salvage hunters decided to bring young Kassa to their homeworld of Ferrix, for fear of him being captured or killed by the Republic, and raise him as their son.





## EPISODE 4 ALDHANI

**Directed by** Susanna White  
**Written by** Dan Gilroy  
**Premiered:** September 28, 2022

Luthen Rael offers Andor the chance to earn 200,000 credits by taking part in an audacious heist on Aldhani—the theft of the entire Imperial payroll for that sector.

Using the pseudonym “Clem,” Cassian is introduced to Vel Sartha, the stern leader of the rebel cell planning the raid. She argues with Luthen about



accepting a newcomer into her ranks, but Rael leaves her with no choice. Vel leads Cassian to her camp, where the other rebels are equally displeased with the arrival of a stranger.

Back on Ferrix, Supervisor Blevin of the Imperial Security Bureau strips Chief Inspector Hyne and Deputy Inspector Kam of their command as punishment for the Ferrix fiasco and informs them the Morlana system is now under Imperial control. On Coruscant, ISB Supervisor Dedra Meero has also taken

an interest in Ferrix, especially when she learns of evidence found there—the stolen N-9 Starpath unit that Cassian had hoped to sell to Luthen.

Luthen Rael, having returned to Coruscant in the guise of his public persona as an affable dealer in antiquities, welcomes Senator Mon Mothma to his gallery. Under the pretense of buying a gift for her husband, Mon is really there to discuss the nascent rebellion with Rael.

### INSIDER INTEL

#### MON MOTHMA

**Played by**  
Genevieve O'Reilly

“We find Mon Mothma in a bit of a gilded cage,” explains O'Reilly. “She’s a woman who has had to navigate her ideals and her beliefs within systems of oppression. We journey with her as she’s finding her voice and reaching for voices that are fighting for similar things. Finding community, finding collaborators to be able to eventually be the leader that she becomes in *Rogue One*.”

## EPISODE 5 THE AXE FORGETS

**Directed by** Susanna White  
**Written by** Tony Gilroy  
**Premiered:** October 5, 2022

Dismissed from the Pre-Mor security service, a disconsolate Syril Karn has returned to his family home on Coruscant, where his mother berates him for his constant failures. Meanwhile, Mon Mothma’s troubles are also compounded by domestic tensions.



On Aldhani, Cassian has work to do to convince several of his new cohorts that he can be trusted. He learns each of them has their reasons for becoming rebels, including the idealistic Karis Nemik, who is in the process of writing his own revolutionary manifesto. Realizing that these rebels have gaps in their exit strategy, Cassian insists on piloting the freighter that will carry the stolen payroll.

Having drilled the plan and covered their tracks, the rebels head to a new camp close to the Imperial base and make



their final preparations for the raid. Along the way, Cassian is forced to admit he’s only involved because he’s being paid.





## EPISODE 6 THE EYE

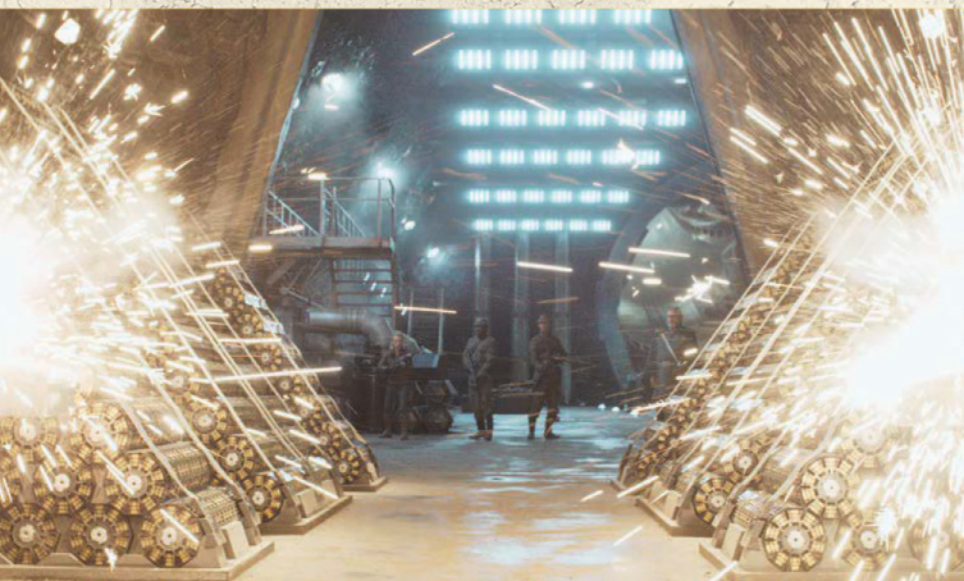
**Directed by** Susanna White  
**Written by** Dan Gilroy  
**Premiered:** October 12, 2022

Inside the fortified Imperial garrison, Commandant Jayhold Beehaz boasts of the Empire's clever manipulation of people like the native Dhanis, while pilgrims are gathering in the valley below to witness the famous Eye of Aldhani.

The spectacular meteor display and its accompanying rituals are central to the rebel plan. Donning Imperial uniforms,



Cassian, Taramyn Barcona, Arvel Skeen, and Karis Nemik pose as a trooper escort to a group of pilgrims, making their way to the sacred temple of the Eye.



They stand guard as the Dhani chief and Commandant Beehaz exchange pleasantries, and then escort Beehaz and his family back into the garrison.

Meanwhile, Vel Sartha and Cinta Kaz scale the dam's walls and install a device to scramble the garrison's communications transmissions. Vel rejoins her comrades and they gain access to the vault after taking the commandant and his family hostage. But the alarm is raised as they load the freighter, and a firefight begins. Barcona and Lieutenant Gorn, an Imperial double agent working with the rebels, are killed, and Nemik is fatally wounded as Cassian launches the freighter.

Having escaped Aldhani and hiding out on Frezno, Skeen suggests he and Cassian take the money and run. Andor shoots the treacherous man, leaving with his cut of the loot and the manifesto that Nemik bequeathed to him.

### INSIDER INTEL

**SYRIL KARN**

**Played by**  
Kyle Soller

"Tony Gilroy created a character that is really three-dimensional," Soller says about Syril Karn's motivation. "He comes from a place of such pain in his home life, and he's trying to fill that void within himself through the fascist, corporate, bureaucratic structure where he finds order. He finds a place where he might be seen and supersede his station, and climb up the ranks. And there is a big question mark hanging over him—he could go into the Empire, or he could join the rebels."



# EPISODE 7 ANNOUNCEMENT

**Directed by** Benjamin Caron  
**Written by** Stephen Schiff  
**Premiered:** October 19, 2022

News of the Aldhani raid spreads across the galaxy. Given new powers of surveillance and punishment by the Emperor, the ISB steps up its investigations into all threats to the Empire. Having impressed Major Partagaz, Supervisor Meero is given jurisdiction over the Morlana sector.

Mon Mothma is also troubled by the boldness of the Aldhani raid and pays Luthen another visit. He admits he was responsible and insists inciting the



Sartha and gives her orders to find and eliminate Cassian Andor.

Cassian has returned to Ferrix, determined to take Maarva with him to find a new life somewhere warm. He visits Bix to say goodbye and gives her money to pay off his debts, but when he returns home Maarva tells him she won't be leaving with him. News of events on Aldhani have given her the resolve to rebel against the Empire at home.

Cassian travels to the resort world of Niamos, where he's arrested by Imperial shoretroopers and sentenced to six years in prison for rebellious activities.

## INSIDER INTEL

### BIX CALEEN

Played by  
Adria Arjona

"I think she's fearless," Arjona says of her character. "Bix is bold, she's incredibly loyal and compassionate, and cares a little too much for the people around her, sometimes to her own detriment."



Empire's wrath is the right path to take. Later, Mon seeks the help of an old school friend, banker Tay Kolma, to raise money for her new charitable foundation, hinting that they may share a similar political viewpoint. Meanwhile, Luthen's assistant Kleya Marki meets with Vel

# EPISODE 8 NARKINA 5

**Directed by** Toby Haynes  
**Written by** Beau Willimon  
**Premiered:** October 26, 2022

Syril Karn has been trying to locate Cassian Andor through the limited resources of his new job at the Imperial Bureau of Standards. This has brought him to the attention of the ISB, and Supervisor Meero brings him in for questioning.

Meero is also searching for Andor, and a mysterious figure codenamed "Axis," whom she believes is coordinating rebel raids across the galaxy. Syril is keen to help, but Meero has little time for him.

Cassian and a batch of fresh inmates arrive at a facility on Narkina 5, where



the bare-footed prisoners work twelve-hour shifts constructing machinery for the Empire. Any drop in productivity or misbehavior is punished with electric shocks administered through the metal floor. As Andor adapts to his new surroundings, Mon Mothma has troubles

of her own. She confides in Tay Kolma that she's worried about new banking regulations and increased

ISB investigative powers, which could uncover funds she has secretly diverted from her family fortune.

On Ferrix, Maarva's health is failing. Bix tries to contact Luthen, hoping to let Cassian know, but Rael doesn't answer the call. He is more interested in organizing the disparate cells of rebellion forming around the galaxy, and visits Saw Gerrera at his secret base on Segra Milo to suggest an alliance with former Separatist Anto Kreegyr. Gerrera refuses to entertain the idea.

Later, when Supervisor Meero arrives on Ferrix to interrogate locals with links to Andor, Bix is placed under arrest.





## EPISODE 9 NOBODY'S LISTENING

**Directed by** Toby Haynes  
**Written by** Beau Willimon  
**Premiered:** November 2, 2022

Bix has been holding firm under Supervisor Meero's interrogation, so the Imperial officer leaves her to the mercies of the ghastly Doctor Gorst.

On Narkina 5, Cassian has an escape plan, using short breaks to sabotage piping in the refresher. Ulaf, an elderly prisoner on his team,



seems increasingly unwell. A power outage during a shift change causes a stir among the prisoners, and rumors spread of a problem on Level 2.

Mon Mothma receives a visit from her cousin, Vel Sartha, and meets Tay Kolma in private to discuss her money worries. He advises that her best option

is a deal with Davo Sculdun, another Chandrilan banker with a reputation Mon does not admire.

Ulaf suffers a severe stroke and is euthanized by a medic, who tells Cassian and the shift's gruff floor manager, Kino Loy, that a prisoner scheduled for release from Level 4 was instead transferred directly to Level 2. Realizing that this meant no prisoner would ever be released from Narkina 5, the Level 2 prisoners rioted and were punished with a painful death.

### INSIDER INTEL

## THE ESCAPE

Diego Luna recalls rehearsing stunts for the Narkina 5 prison escape sequence: "They had an amazing facility where we climbed and jumped and fell and rolled. I had to pretend I was ten years younger," he says. "The next morning, every part of my body ached. I felt like I'd gone into battle, and that was just after the first rehearsal!"

## EPISODE 10 ONE WAY OUT

**Directed by** Toby Haynes  
**Written by** Beau Willimon  
**Premiered:** November 9, 2022

Kino Loy reveals the truth to the other prisoners under his watch. No one is getting out unless they do something about it themselves.

Meanwhile, the ISB have uncovered a plot by rebel Anto Kreegyr to raid a power station on Spellhaus. What they don't know is that there is a spy in their midst, Supervisor Lonni Jung, who secretly travels to Coruscant's lower levels to inform Luthen Rael that the Empire knows of the planned attack.



Mon Mothma has an uneasy meeting with Davo Sculdun, who asks for a favor in return for resolving Mon's financial woes that the senator cannot accept.

The arrival of a new inmate to replace Ulaf gives the prisoners the perfect opportunity to strike. While Kino Loy works the shift as usual, Andor severs the refresher pipe and causes a flood. The prisoners stage a mini riot to attract the attention of the guards, who duly electrify the floor, but thanks to Cassian's makeshift plumbing

the rapidly spreading water short circuits the entire security system.

The inmates sweep upwards through the levels, arming themselves with blasters and releasing other prisoners along the way. Cassian and Kino take over the command center, and Loy transmits an emotional message throughout the prison: "Take charge and start climbing!" As inmates leap into the sea surrounding the prison, Kino Loy admits he can't swim, but Andor is swept away by the crowd, unable to help.





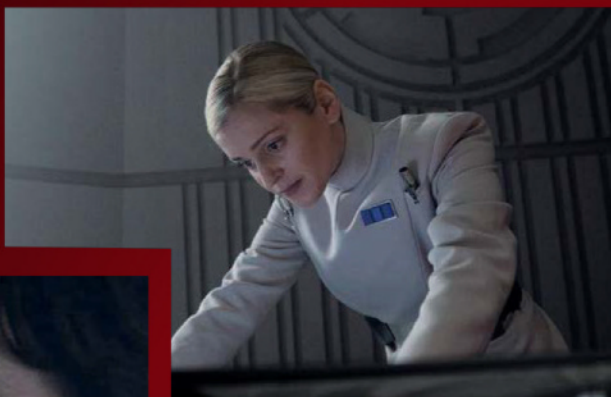
# EPISODE 11 DAUGHTER OF FERRIX

Directed by Benjamin Caron  
Written by Tony Gilroy  
Premiered: November 16, 2022



Cassian and Ruescott Melshi evade Imperial search parties scouring the coastline of Narkina 5 for escaped prisoners. After attempting to steal a quadjumper from two locals, they hitch a ride to Niamos where Cassian retrieves his stash of credits from the Aldhani heist.

On Ferrix, B2EMO mourns the death of Maarva Andor as her friends carry her remains through the town as a mark of respect. Cinta Kaz, who was watching the Andor residence, sends word of Maarva's death to Kleya Marki via Vel Sartha. Syril Karn also learns the news from an old Pre-Mor



## INSIDER INTEL

### DEdra MEERO

Played by  
Denise Gough

"When we meet Dedra, she's an officer at the lower end of the ISB ladder, but she's incredibly ambitious and meticulous," says Gough of the series' primary villain. "She exists in a very male-dominated world, but only she can see what is happening, something the people around her are missing. I love that people think, 'Go girl!' and then remember she's part of this fascist organization."

colleague, receiving no sympathy from his mother, and elsewhere Supervisor Meero orders the garrison to allow permits for the funeral.

Luthen returns to Saw Gerrera's hideout to tell him that the Empire know of the Spellhaus attack and suggests Gerrera not get involved. Sacrificing Kreegyr to the Empire is the only way to protect the wider rebellion, he says.

Cassian attempts to call home from a comms unit on Niamos, only to learn the tragic news of his mother's death.





## INSIDER INTEL

### FERRIX

"Our production designer, Luke Hull, and his team constructed an eight-and-a-half-acre city for us, that we used across all 12 episodes," says Tony Gilroy, creator of *Andor*. "It was a 360-degree set and it felt like a real place. We were able to build a real community within it, with all its social structures and intense rituals."



## EPISODE 12 RIX ROAD

**Directed by Benjamin Caron**  
**Written by Tony Gilroy**  
**Premiered: November 23, 2022**

**Wilmon Paak, the son of Salman Paak, a Ferrix mechanic executed by the occupying Empire, is constructing an explosive device in his father's workshop.**

On Coruscant, Mon Mothma accuses her husband of gambling again, certain that their driver is listening in on the private conversation. Sure enough, the Imperial spy relates this information to Supervisor Blevin. Later, Mon accedes to Davo Sculdun's request to introduce his son to her daughter, in keeping with Chandrila tradition.

Supervisor Dedra Meero returns to Ferrix, believing Andor will not be able to resist paying his final respects to his



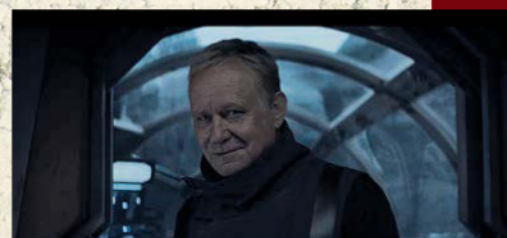
mother. With troops stationed at strategic points along Rix Road, she is determined to take him alive. Syril Karn has also traveled to the planet with the aim of capturing Andor himself, while Luthen Rael has arrived to tie up the Aldhani loose end, permanently.

Cassian arrives in the city at night. Having learned of Bix's predicament, he hides in a scrapped starship and reads Karis Nemik's manifesto as he figures out what to do next. The following morning, he meets with Brasso in a secret tunnel beneath the occupied city, where his friend relates a final message Maarva left for her son.

Maarva's funeral procession sets out at midday, two hours earlier than the time sanctioned by the Imperials, with Brasso bearing her funerary stone at the head of the march. When the march halts before a roadblock hurriedly set up by the Imperials, B2EMO projects a hologram recorded by Maarva before she passed. Her message is clear and powerful—"Fight the Empire!"

A riot erupts on Rix Road, and Wilmon Paak hurls his homemade bomb in the direction of the Imperial garrison. The device causes a cache of Imperial ordnance to explode. In retribution, stormtroopers are ordered to fire at will upon the protesters.

Meanwhile, Cassian has crept into the hotel and freed Bix, broken by the torture she's endured. He takes her to the docks where Brasso, B2EMO, and a handful of others are preparing to flee the planet in an old starship. Cassian, however, remains on Ferrix where he seeks out Luthen with an ultimatum: "Kill me, or take me in." 🗡️





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# It's About Time

## The Inside Story of *Star Wars: Timelines*





*Star Wars: Timelines*, the expansive new reference book from DK, charts the history of the galaxy far, far away from the formation of the Jedi Order to the Battle of Exegol. *Star Wars Insider* sat down with all five *Timelines* authors—Kristin Bayer, Jason Fry, Cole Horton, Amy Richau, and Clayton Sandell—to discover how the ambitious project came together.

WORDS: AMY RICHAU



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hen *Insider* gathered the five authors of *Star Wars: Timelines* for a roundtable

discussion, moderated by Amy Richau, our first question was how each of them felt about taking on the gargantuan task of putting a galaxy's worth of storytelling into one book?

**Amy Richau:** I was blown away by the idea of *Timelines* when I first heard about it and loved the idea of a book embracing the full history of *Star Wars*. What were everyone else's first impressions?

**Kristin Baver:** I foolishly thought it was going to be much simpler than it turned out to be (*the entire group laughs*). When I initially heard about *Timelines*, I was really excited because it was such a fantastic idea. I couldn't believe that a book like that didn't already exist.

**Jason Fry:** I thought, "Oh, my goodness, that's a huge undertaking." I knew there would be a lot of tumultuous work needed to do it, but it also seemed very important—*Star Wars* is something I've cared about for years, so I felt honored to be a part of it. It was intimidating. In some ways, it was one of those books that I wanted to exist without me having to do the work (*laughs*).

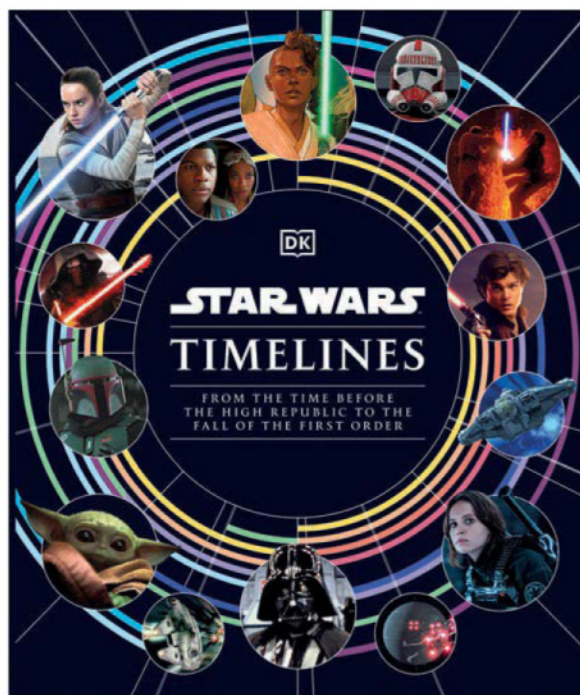
**"I couldn't believe that a book like that didn't already exist."**

**Kristin Baver**

**Cole Horton:** My first thought was, "Who agreed to this?" It just seemed so ambitious. And because there would be so, so many eyeballs on the project—not only the writers, but everyone at DK and at Lucasfilm—it felt like it could be too much of an undertaking. I was worried it might be too detailed and too big to pull off. But it happened, and so here we are.

**Clayton Sandell:** This is the book that I've always wanted to read, so when I was asked to participate, I shrieked like an over-excited porg. And then I thought, "They've made a terrible mistake by bringing me on!" Thankfully, the more that I thought about it, I realized that trying to piece together a coherent story from multiple and sometimes conflicting sources tapped into a lot of the research skills that I've developed over time as a journalist.

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01 *Star Wars: Timelines*, published by DK, is on sale April 25.

02 Left to right: Cole Horton, Jason Fry, Clayton Sandell, Amy Richau, and Kristin Baver.

## Voyage Of Rediscovery

**AR:** I worked on the Reign of the Empire chapter which included novels I had not read in a very long time, and some stories—like the *Star Wars Rebels* comics—that I never had the chance to read. Which of the stories that fell into your chapters were new to each of you?

**CH:** Oh, you mean two thirds of my High Republic chapter, which was to be based on information that had not been released yet when we started writing? (*Laughs*). Yeah. We started writing *Timelines* around the time that wave two of Phase I of *The High Republic* was coming out, so I had to read all of those stories and then wait for wave three to hit the market before I could finish my chapter. So, *everything* was new, as was the whole era really. I was reading and logging *Timelines* at the same time as Phase I was coming out.

**KB:** Was that a fun way to enjoy it?

**CH:** It was! Like everybody else, I have become so attached to those characters, stories, and plots, but I was looking for the timeline, so



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I almost read the material purely through the lens of what had to be told in the book (*Laughs*).

**AR:** That ended up being how I watched and then wrote the sections for the Disney+ exclusive series, *Obi-Wan Kenobi*.

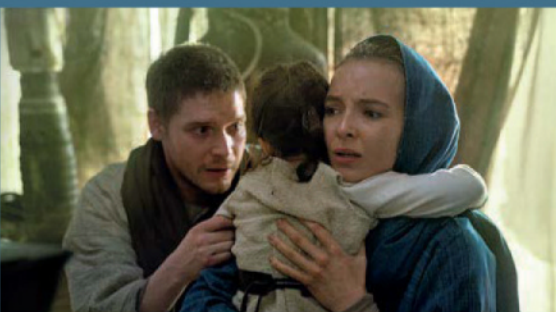
**JF:** I wrote the Leia Organa timeline before Beth Revis' novel *The Princess and the Scoundrel* was released, but I watched that story unfold from the point at which it was still a book concept. Throughout, I had to keep in mind that I would need a couple of moments from it for the Leia spread, without having read the finished manuscript. That was fun.

**KB:** Similar to your experience, Jason, I was writing the later sections before *Shadow of the Sith* [by Adam Christopher] came out. I really wanted to incorporate elements of his story but at that point Adam was still writing the novel, and I didn't know what was going to happen in it. It would have felt odd if we'd not included the names of Rey's parents in the New Republic section, for example, so I reached out to him to ask, "What can you tell me that's safe?" (*Laughs*).

03 Jason Fry was responsible for writing Leia Organa's timeline.

04 Including the names of Rey's parents was an important fact to include in *Timelines*.

05 Almost all of the events of the sequel trilogy took place over one year.



**CS:** I was really excited about writing the original trilogy era, because that is the story I grew up with. What I didn't realize was just how many stories had been written around those films afterwards, especially in the comics. I was roughly familiar with some of those stories, but certainly



hadn't read them in the analytical way in which you should do when you're plugging them into a timeline. What I thought would be like separating the well-defined layers of a lasagna turned out to be more like untangling spaghetti in some cases.

### Plotting a Timeline

**AR:** I was surprised to discover how many relatively empty periods exist from a few years after *Revenge of the Sith* (2005) to seven or eight years before *A New Hope* (1977),

where not much (that we know of) was happening. Did any of you find similar gaps in your eras?

**KB:** For the sequel trilogy, almost everything happens in 34 ABY. Almost everything. It's like pages and pages, in just this one year. I think that it's really healthy for the *Star Wars* galaxy that we don't know what happens every single year. That everything is already filled in. That there's still plenty of times and places for creators to explore and play around in. ▶

## BEHIND THE TIMELINES: KRISTIN BAVER

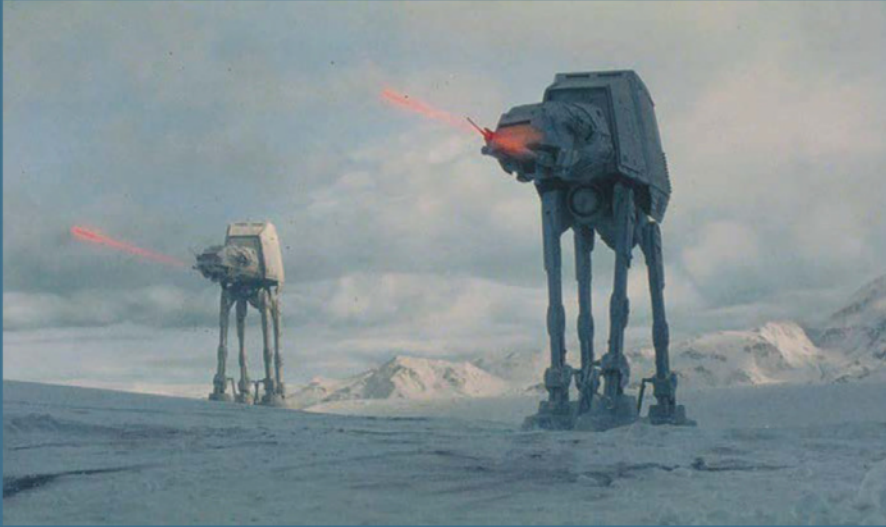
### Early history, the New Republic, and the Rise of the First Order

"I wrote the very first chapter, which was mostly things we've never seen, or we've seen very brief glimpses of in flashbacks, but that we know to be true. Early History covers a staggering time period from the founding of the Jedi Order around 25,000 BBY to Jedi Master Yoda's first year as a teacher some 800 years before he meets Luke Skywalker in the original trilogy.

I also wrote The New Republic section, which explores the time from the formation of the government in the wake of the Galactic Civil War to the events leading into the resurgence of the Imperial remnant with the First Order. Then, in the Rise of the First Order, we see the turmoil that sets up the events of the sequel trilogy and follow it through to its resolution."







## BEHIND THE TIMELINES: JASON FRY

### The Fall of the Jedi

"My chapter is the prequel era, beginning with the backstory for *The Phantom Menace* (1999) and running until shortly after the declaration of the Empire. What I loved about chronicling this period is how it feels like an avalanche—things start to go wrong very slowly and quietly and then the problems accumulate and accelerate until you're in the thick of the Clone Wars, with the entire galaxy a battlefield and the Jedi caught in a trap they won't escape."

► **CS:** I will tell you that in the five years that I was responsible for, from the Battle of Yavin to the Battle of Jakku, Han, Luke, Leia and the gang never took a day off because there was so much going on, all the time. I don't know how you would fit all of that into one lifetime. But clearly they did (*Laughs*)!

**CH:** The High Republic covers about a 400-year span, but all of the stories covered in *Timelines* took place in about four of those 400 years. So, on the one hand, it was challenging because the events



happened right on top of each other, meaning some of my timelines covered just hours, or a day. On the other hand, that means we've only seen about one percent of what the High Republic has to offer. And there's a lot more room there for future storytelling.

**JF:** I worked on the Fall of the Jedi era, which runs from about one hundred years before the Battle of Yavin through to the end of *Revenge of the Sith*. It all culminated with the end of the Clone Wars and then the the fall the Republic—the final year is absolutely crammed with big events. It was a huge challenge to figure out the correct order

06 The Battle of Hoth was Clayton Sandell's favorite timeline to write.

07 Jason Fry incorporated clone tales from various sources into his timeline for the Clone Wars period.

of things from numerous clone stories in comics and videogames, along with new things like *The Bad Batch* (2020 - ). In fact, I started watching *The Bad Batch* without thinking about it in a timeline sense until I suddenly realized, "Oh, we're watching the declaration of Empire! We know *exactly* when that happened!"

Conversely, at the beginning of that period there are lots of huge events that simultaneously do not have terribly well-defined dates, like when did Maul become Darth Sidious' apprentice? We knew that readers would badly want to find out when things like

that happened, but the last thing we wanted to do was foreclose on future storytelling, so that was always an interesting negotiation.

## The Battles of the Book

**AR:** Some of the individual spreads in *Timelines* explore battles that had multiple things going on at the same time. My all-time favorite is the Battle of Scarif, which I got to retell in my chapter, but I found the Battle of Lothal from *Star Wars Rebels* (2014-2018) to be way more challenging and interesting to look at from a timeline perspective. I'll never feel the same way about Grand Admiral Thrawn and what he was doing, after working on this book.

**CS:** My favorite to work on was the Battle of Hoth as I've always loved



**“We’ve only seen about one percent of what the High Republic has to offer.”**

**Cole Horton**

that that whole sequence from *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980). From a timelines perspective it was fun because it was an example of where we got to fold in characters that, if you’d only watched the movies, you would not realize were involved. I got to weave in characters from the novel *Twilight Company* [by Alexander Freed], for example, and the “Tales of Villainy” comics, which included characters and events from other sources that maybe people didn’t know anything about.

**CH:** My toughest challenge was recounting the events of the Fall of Starlight Beacon. Every Phase I *The High Republic* story converges on that moment. And that means basically every character as well. I wanted to do all of them justice, tell all of their stories, but there was only so much room on a page to capture it. That event took place over the course of a day, at most, and probably more like an eight-to-twelve-hour span. It was a very busy half a day!

08 The Battle of Scarif, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016).

09 The destruction of the High Republic’s Starlight Beacon.



## BEHIND THE TIMELINES: COLE HORTON

### The High Republic

“The High Republic is a largely unexplored era occurring c.500 BBY–c.100 BBY. I hope *Timelines* becomes a jumping off point for readers to discover more about this new and dynamic golden age of galactic history.”

**KB:** I got a new appreciation for some of the middle-grade books for the sequel trilogy era. In *Join the Resistance* [by Ben Acker and Ben Blacker] there’s a whole squad of kids who are cadets who show up on Starkiller Base and interact and intersect with events from

*The Force Awakens* (2015). Trying to figure out where those kids fitted into the timeline for the Starkiller Base battle sequence was fascinating because I hadn’t really thought about those pieces of the puzzle in that way before. It gives a new perspective to the film.

**JF:** Basically, all my battle spreads melted my brain. I would turn in these horrible sketches that looked



08

09



**“I’m super excited that I’ll be able to use the book for reference myself!”**  
**Jason Fry**

10



## BEHIND THE TIMELINES: **CLAYTON SANDELL** *The Age of Rebellion*

“Age of Rebellion begins with the Battle of Yavin (0) and ends at the Battle of Jakku (5ABY)—a relatively short five-year span that is nonetheless intensely rich with tales of our favorite heroes hoping to sustain the momentum of victory against the Empire, while encountering truly non-stop adventure and all-manner of galactic scum and villainy along the way.”



10 X-wing fighters on their way to attack the Death Star in *A New Hope*, (1977).

11 The remains of a Star Destroyer on Jakku in *The Force Awakens*, (2015).

► like bad wiring, and nobody could read my handwriting. However, thanks to senior editor Ruth Amos and the design team at DK publishing, I think they turned out really well.

**AR:** What part of the book are you the most excited about to read as a fan? I’m really curious about the earliest parts of the timeline and the section between the High Republic and the Fall of the Jedi. I think it will be fascinating to see what has happened so far, clearly laid out as a timeline, and I know there are so many upcoming stories that will end up in that time period.

**CS:** I’m really eager to read about the High Republic era because we were so busy working on *Timelines* that I haven’t yet caught up with it all.

**CH:** Probably Clayton’s section, as the Age of Rebellion is my favorite *Star Wars* era. I want to see how much detail of those five years he’s been able to fit in.

**KB:** I’m going to cheat and say that I’m just excited to see this whole book come together. I’m really looking forward to turning through the pages at my leisure and exploring all of the different eras, but especially the ones I

12 Imperial Star Destroyers hovering over Lothal.

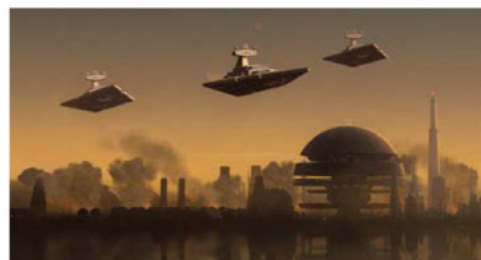
*didn’t* write. It’s been such a different experience submitting a spreadsheet and then these beautiful layouts coming back. There were some spreads where I thought, “Is this enough information? I don’t even know if I’m doing this right!” And then the layout would come in and it would be beautiful.

**JF:** I’m super excited that I’ll be able to use the book for reference myself! The next time I’m working on something, and one of those inevitable “When did that happen?” questions comes up, I’ll know there’s a book that I can take down from the shelf and it will contain the answer. It’s really, really exciting, and a little humbling to know that I’ve played a small role in the book’s creation. 🙌



## BEHIND THE TIMELINES: **AMY RICHAU** *The Reign of the Empire*

“The Reign of the Empire starts in 18 BBY during the early years of Palpatine’s reign and ends right before the Battle of Yavin begins. I loved that this chapter included some of the oldest official-lore content as well as information from new productions like the *Obi-Wan Kenobi* (2022) series. This is my favorite era of *Star Wars* because I’m so inspired by the characters who created and fought for the Rebellion, and never let hope die.”



12



# STAR WARS<sup>INSIDER</sup>™

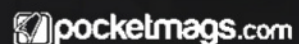
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# PUSHING

In part one of an exclusive two-part interview, *Star Wars Insider* talks to John Knoll, Industrial Light & Magic's chief creative officer and senior visual effects supervisor, about his early inspirations and arrival in the *Star Wars* galaxy.

01







01 John Knoll at his desk during production of *Revenge of the Sith* (2002).

02 The Utapau miniature built for *Revenge of the Sith*, on which Knoll was production visual effects supervisor.

03 Knoll on the set of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016). The film was based on a story idea he devised.

# BOUNDARIES



WORDS: BRANDON WAINERDI

**T**

hanks to his innovative ideas and creativity across almost four decades at Industrial Light & Magic, John Knoll has rightly earned the epithet, “visual effects legend.” Since 1986, he has played a key part in bringing many of our favorite movie moments to

life and helped to usher in the digital era of effects that dominates today. From the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy to *The Mandalorian* (2019 - ) and beyond, he has continually pushed the boundaries of visual effects (in addition to co-creating Adobe Photoshop with his brother). *Insider* began our conversation by asking Knoll about his formative experiences. ▶



03



► **What were the early film inspirations that lead you towards a career at Industrial Light & Magic?**

John Knoll: I loved movies, especially ones that depicted things that were outside of my everyday experience, whether they transported me to some distant location or portrayed a subject matter that was fun and unfamiliar. From an artistic standpoint, I was especially fascinated by scenes that clearly were something the crew couldn't have just gone out and shot. There was *Forbidden Planet* (1956), with alien landscapes and invisible creatures, or any Ray Harryhausen movies with stop-motion monsters. Television was a huge inspiration, as well, including *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* (1964-68), *Lost in Space* (1965-68), and the original *Star Trek* (1966-68). I loved all that stuff.

**Did you always want to work in film?**

I grew up far away from the film industry, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. My family was full of scientists, engineers, and medical professionals, so I was thinking that I was probably going to end up in an engineering field.

I attribute my working in the film industry now partly to growing up in a cold climate. People who grow up in cold climates often develop indoor hobbies (*laughs*). I grew up before the internet and before videogames. What do you do during those long winter months, when you don't want to be outside because it's bitterly cold and unpleasant? You take up hobbies and learn to make furniture, to program computers, to build models, to do clay animation. I took an interest in all sorts of artistic and technical pastimes, which all converged rather nicely with visual effects.

**What was your first experience with Industrial Light & Magic?**

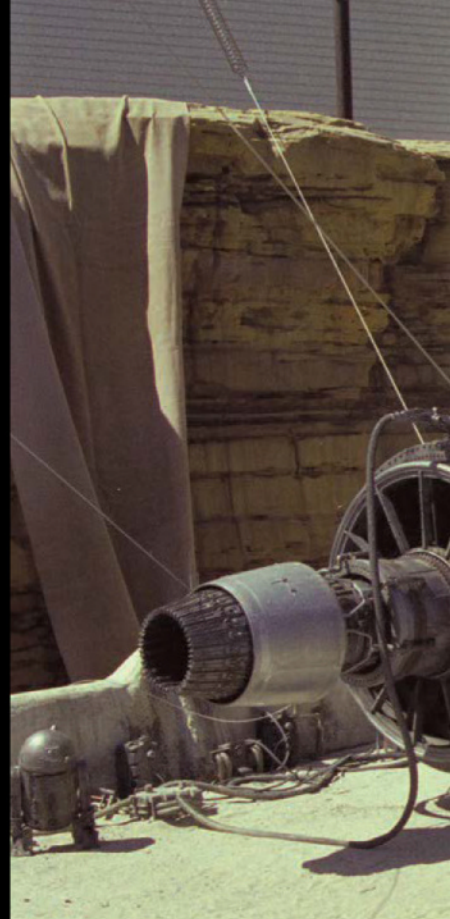
When I was in high school, my dad attended a conference in California, and he brought my younger brother and me along with him. It was in

May of 1978, so just about a year after *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977) had come out, and around the time I was starting to give some serious thought as to what I was going to do with the rest of my life.

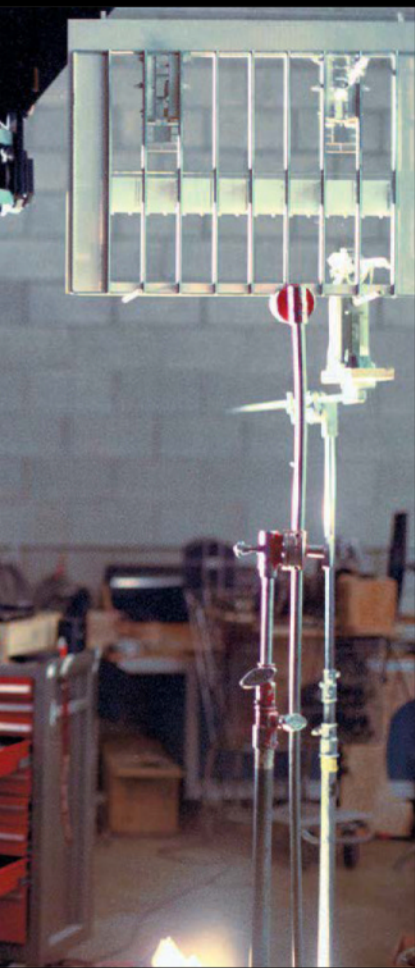
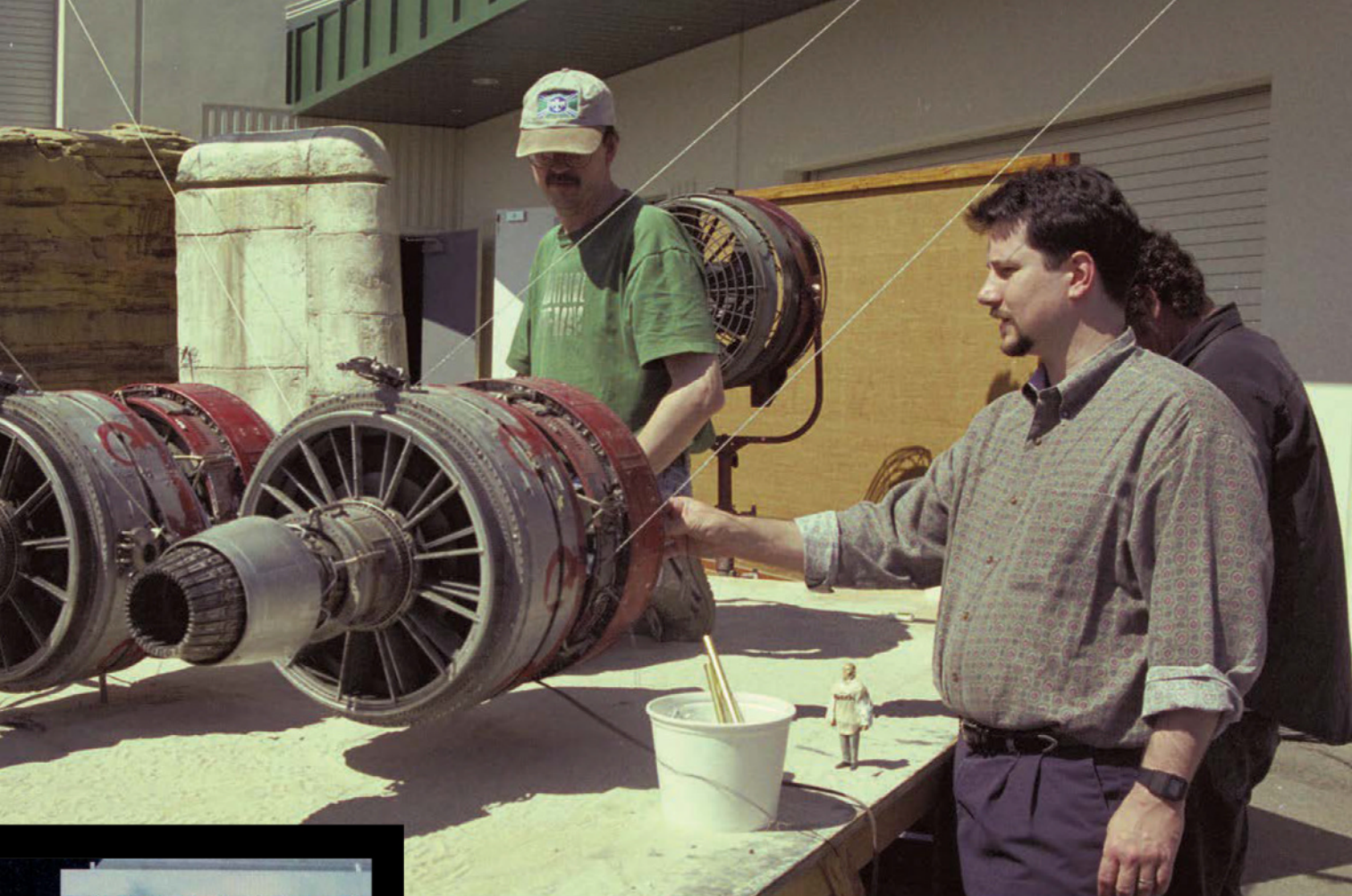
I had read this magazine article in *Cinefantastique* magazine about the making of the movie, which had substantial interviews with John Dykstra, Dennis Muren, Ken Ralston, and Richard Edlund. So, I was there in the hotel room in Anaheim, California, and I just picked up a phone book to see if there was a listing for Industrial Light & Magic. And there was!

On a lark, I called the number and Grant McCune (Oscar winner for visual effects in 1978) answered the phone. I told him that I was model maker and that I was interested in working in film. He graciously invited me to come over and they would show

04 John Knoll (right) inspects a pod racer miniature.







05

**“I loved movies, especially ones that depicted things that were outside of my everyday experience.”**

05 John Dykstra operating the “Dykstraflex” motion control camera rig he designed for *A New Hope*. John Knoll was 15 years old when he visited ILM in May 1978 and first saw the rig in action.

me around. I don’t think they knew that I was 15 years old, but I took them up on the offer.

My dad had originally planned to drop my brother and I off at Disneyland that day, and let us loose. But, in my mind, going to ILM was *better* than going to Disneyland. First thing in the morning, my dad drove me up to Van Nuys, California, and dropped me off. Lorne Peterson was my tour guide. He took me to dailies in the morning, where they were working on *Battlestar Galactica* (1978-79), and then we just hung out for the whole day.

I went to the model shop, while they were building models for an

upcoming episode, and I went to the motion control stage, where they were shooting miniatures. I got to see the whole process and, boy, that was a totally life-changing experience. I felt like I had found what I wanted to be doing. I left that trip with a firm determination that I wanted to work in visual effects.

**How did you mold yourself into the person that ILM eventually wanted to hire?**

I credit a lot of it to my parents, while I was growing up. I didn’t realize it, until reflecting on it much later, that my parents modeled behavior for me that really affected who I am.





06

06 Knoll directing an effects unit shot of Stass Allie for *Revenge of the Sith*.

would make me a desirable person to hire onto their crew?

The first jobs I did were as a model maker, because it was a skill that I developed as a teenager. I had documented all kinds of things that I had built, and I showed a portfolio of those to get jobs. When I was at the University of Southern California, I was really fascinated by motion control systems, the robotic cameras used to shoot miniatures. At the time, nobody who had a motion control system had bought it commercially. There were no companies that were making them. Everybody who had one built it themselves. And so, I decided, well, I'm going to build a motion control system.

My final project at USC was building a four-channel motion control system with an old Apple II computer, and a bunch of surplus hardware that I bought at an industrial gear shop in Pasadena. It got me hired at ILM.



07

07 The finished shot in which the Jedi Knight becomes yet another victim of Order 66.

► My dad learned how to build furniture, and he built a bunch of the furniture for our house. When an appliance like a television started going on the fritz, we didn't take it to a repair shop; we were taught to open it up and figure out what was wrong with it. I saw dad doing things like that all the time: he repaired his own car and was constantly building things and fixing things and troubleshooting things.

When you grow up in that kind of environment, you realize that the difference between *knowing* how to do something and *not knowing* how to do something is just making the investment and practicing. I came out of it all feeling like, well, anything that I really care about and set my mind to, I can do.

When I was getting into the film industry, I approached it that way, as well: do I have a saleable skill that I can show to people who





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**What were your first professional roles in the industry?**

When I started at ILM, my first job was as a camera assistant, actually working on the Dykstraflex motion control camera. I was very aware of the historic nature of it, and it was super fun that I was able to use that original camera.

I felt very privileged to be invited into this family of super creative, super smart folks. I was determined to be a sponge, soaking up every bit of knowledge that I could from these amazing people. I wanted to know how they did what they did. I also felt some pressure to live up to this environment: suddenly, I was immersed into this pool of the most creative, talented artists working in the industry. I wanted to make sure I wasn't letting anybody down. I needed to up my game to prove that I belonged there.

**08** Filming VFX elements for *Star Tours* was among Knoll's first jobs at ILM.

**09** ILM combined practical puppetry and digital removal to animate the unfinished C-3PO in *The Phantom Menace* (1999).

**10** For some shots, C-3PO was filmed against a green screen.

**"I felt very privileged to be invited into this family of super creative, super smart folks."**

I had heard that the effects camera department (where they had the motion control animation stands) was overloaded and that they needed help. The motion control system that I had built at USC was attached to an animation stand, so I was very familiar with shooting on these types of rigs. I mentioned that to the head of the

animation department and, that if he needed another operator, I would be interested. And so, they invited me into that department and, as soon as I was in there, I kept getting thrown challenges to see if I could come up away with a way of doing this or doing that.

At first, I shot simple things for *Star Tours* (the Disneyland ►

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► attraction which opened in 1987), like flak bursts and star fields. Later, however, I got thrown more open-ended challenges. I got to be good friends with Dave Carson, Dennis Muren, and Ken Ralston, all of whom didn't give me any more direction than I needed, which I loved. I was free to try a bunch of different, goofy ideas and show them what I was working on. I began to develop the reputation of being a creative problem solver, and that got me put into more and more trusted positions. That was my path to becoming a supervisor.

## LOOKS FAMILIAR

The Academy Award-winning visual effects supervisor may be best known for his behind-the-scenes activities, but John Knoll has appeared in the *Star Wars* movies as well as helping make them.

### IRYA KIRSCH

Naboo Fighter Pilot  
*Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999)



### TANNON PRAJI

First Minister, Coruscant  
Ministry of Ingress (right)  
*Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith* (2005)



**You worked on *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999) as one of the VFX supervisors. What made that project especially challenging?**

At first, it was actually terrifying. A "big" tentpole VFX project around that time had around 350 shots. *The Phantom Menace* had nearly 2000 shots.

I was used to a process where, with every project that came in, there was *some* part of it that hadn't been done before. There was always some place where a process that had been used on a previous show was now impractical or couldn't scale enough. So, I had to rethink the process and invent something new. I was very used to working like that.

But when I got exposed to what the work on *The Phantom Menace* was going to be, it was pretty overwhelming. That was when George [Lucas] had Doug Chiang's art department storyboard the entire film. They then took these storyboards and put them on four-by-eight-foot sheets of foam core. It was ten columns, with ten boards per column, so 100 boards per sheet. And they had 36 of those boards.

We started with the first of those boards, and George walked us through the movie, storyboard by storyboard. He told us what he was planning to build as a physical set, what was going to be blue screen, and what was going to be a CG character, like Jar Jar Binks or Watto. I had a little notebook with me and, as we were going through the boards, I was writing down things that we didn't have a way of currently doing. Nearly every board had something that we couldn't do with our existing toolset. This was at a time when the most complex CG thing we had done was on *Mars Attacks* (1996). There were shots with, I think, sixteen Martians in a frame at one time, which almost brought the whole system to its knees.

But here was stuff *in the first fifteen minutes*, with Jar Jar and Qui-Gon Jinn in the swamp, which

**"I kept telling myself that this had to be what John Dykstra felt like on the original *Star Wars*."**

11 CG characters like Watto were among the biggest challenges facing Industrial Light & Magic on *The Phantom Menace* (1999).

was more complicated than all of that. And, of course, characters like Jar Jar wore clothing. CG clothing needs to have cloth simulations, and we didn't have a tool for doing that. It just went on and on. I was sitting there writing this massive list of unsolved problems down, and by the time that the meeting was over my head was spinning.

11





**How did you motivate yourself and your team to see that project to the finish line?**

I kept telling myself that this had to be what John Dykstra felt like on the original *Star Wars*. Nobody had ever done anything with that level of complexity before. And he didn't panic... or, at least, maybe he did, and he just didn't tell anybody! That's the thought I kept clinging on to.

I took these big problems and broke them down into smaller problems. Then I took

12 Planning sequences like the complex Otoh Gunga scenes, began with a storyboard-by-storyboard walkthrough of the movie.

13 Otoh Gunga as it appeared on screen.

14 Jar Jar Binks' costume required bespoke digital cloth emulation software.

12



13

we build assets. Then we get into sync with the director about what that effect looks like. And then we get to cut sequences.

"By the time we get to that point, we've only got about two months left. Then we ramp up, and in the last two months, that's when all the shots come together. And then we're done.

"Now imagine that we do that for 18 months. Think about how much work we can get done. We can totally do this." And they would leave going. "Oh, yeah, that makes sense. Well, he just seems to know how we're going to do this. I guess I'm feeling okay." They would leave, and I would go, "God, I hope that works." 😊

**Next Issue:**

In the second part of our exclusive interview, John Knoll looks back on the modern era of *Star Wars* storytelling, the magic of StageCraft, and what it takes to make it in the visual effects industry today.

those smaller problems and broke them down into yet even smaller problems, until I could assign them out to people.

At the time, I had a whole lot of people come to me with the same panic in their eyes. I had this sort of set speech that I would give them, which was, "Alright, imagine the typical show that we do here, with a one-year cycle time. The first part is design work and bidding. The second part is plate shooting. Then

14





# A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

Expert, Jay Stobie, consults  
and ancient Jedi texts to  
out the events, people,  
far, far away....

# CERTAIN T OF VIEW

Concept art by Ralph McQuarrie

RM'QUARRIE

Concept art by Ralph McQuarrie

As imposing as Jabba the Hutt's palace was when C-3PO and R2-D2 approached it in *Return of the Jedi* (1983), its history was even more impressive, stretching back to a time long before the first human settlers arrived on Tatooine.

monastic order that sought to attain an ultimate state of illumination through physical transformation. Part of this process would see their brains removed from their original bodies and placed into nutrient-filled jars, which were then suspended within a droid framework that resembled a spider, allowing the monks to move around at will. Although the monks had established the monastery in a long-forgotten era, their influence on the grounds extended throughout both Jabba and Boba Fett's ruling tenures. The monks continued to roam the premises, while the infamous rancor pit was rumored to have been a sacred B'omarr grotto.

## ■ Fett's Foes

As Jabba the Hutt's cousins, the Twins sought to assert control over Jabba's former territories and dispatched Krsantan to kill the incumbent daimyo, Boba Fett. Following the failed attempt on Fett, the Twins made peace with the former by gifting him with a new rancor for



Mos Espa's mayor refused to pay tribute to Fett upon his ascension to Jabba's throne, eventually fleeing to Mos Eisley after his affiliation with the Pyke Syndicate became known to the new daimyo. During the battle between Fett and the Pykes, the Ithorian politician fell victim to master assassin Fennec Shand.



In control of the Pyke Syndicate's forces on Tatooine, the Pyke Boss framed the Kintan Striders for the murder of Boba Fett's adoptive Tusken family and orchestrated the armed conflict that nearly consumed Mos Espa. As with his Ithorian ally, this prestigious Pyke was killed by Fennec Shand.







Jabba was not the first criminal to appropriate the palace, however. A bandit named Alkhara had previously asserted control over the building, and he was responsible for the construction of structure's signature tower, battlements, and dungeons. A tragic and pivotal event in Tatooine's history occurred at some point in Alkhara's 34-year reign, as the rogue issued orders for a group of Tusken Raiders to murder the local police garrison, only to subsequently have the Tuskens who had carried out the task executed. This, along with other ugly encounters with settlers, contributed to the



### Dokk Strassi

Along with his Klatooinian and Aqualish counterparts, Dokk Strassi betrayed his agreement to not interfere with the struggle between Boba Fett and the Pykes. The Trandoshan, as well as the leaders of Mos Espa's other two factions, paid the ultimate price for siding with the Pykes in the struggle for the city.



### Cad Bane

With a complex personal history dating back to the Clone Wars, Cad Bane knew precisely how to taunt Fett, and his words nearly caused Boba to lose his cool. The Pykes employed Bane as part of their plan to seize Mos Espa, but the bounty hunter fell to Fett's gaderffii stick in the wake of a tense standoff.







► ongoing feud between the Tusken and other locals. Shmi Skywalker's kidnapping, Luke Skywalker's concerns about sand people (or worse), and Cobb Vanth's perception of the Tusken all stemmed from the tensions born out of Alkhara's vile treachery.

### The Mighty Jabba

After three decades in the palace, Alkhara was driven out by Jabba, who immediately adopted the monastery as his seat of power. Over time, the Hutt crime lord welcomed a variety of outlaws, smugglers, and entertainers into his fortress, ranging from bounty hunter Cad Bane and scoundrel Han Solo to band leader Max Rebo and singer Sy Snootles. Bib Fortuna, a Twi'lek who became rich by enslaving his own people, served as Jabba's majordomo, while the Kowakian monkey-lizard Salacious B. Crumb acted as court jester in an effort to avoid being offered up to Jabba as a meal.

Unfortunately, Jabba's relentless pursuit of Han Solo set in motion a series of events that led to the Hutt's demise. With Solo, Chewbacca, and Luke Skywalker

due to be executed at the Great Pit of Carkoon, Jabba was outmaneuvered by Solo's friends, losing countless hired guns, his personal sail barge, and, ultimately, his own life. Jabba's sudden absence caused a power vacuum; and while Bib Fortuna saw himself as heir, his weak leadership caused instability throughout Mos Espa.

Former bounty hunter Boba Fett seized this opportunity, executing Fortuna and installing himself as the new daimyo. Some individuals, such as the droid 8D8 and a duo of Gamorrean guards, were holdovers from Jabba and Fortuna's regimes, but Fett also assembled a cadre of outcasts that included Fennec Shand and the fierce Wookiee Krrsantan, as well as a group of modified humans, referred to as the Mods, that included Drash and Skad. The Pyke Syndicate opposed Fett's rule, instigating a conflict that ravaged Mos Espa. Though holding a numerical advantage and counting Cad Bane and Scorpenek droids among their ranks, the Pykes fell to Boba Fett and his allies, thus solidifying Fett's claim on the palace and its surrounding environs. 🗡️



## Unlikely Alliances

Beginning with his decision to spare Bib Fortuna's two Gamorrean guards, Boba Fett demonstrated a keen ability to turn foes into friends throughout his early tenure as Daimyo of Tatooine. Mercy and tact proved to be useful allies for the former bounty hunter, with Krrsantan, Drash, Skad, and the other Mods all displaying a willingness to fight alongside Fett.

By showing respect to Din Djarin during their potentially hostile first encounter, Fett gained a reliable ally who he eventually called upon to assist against the Pykes. The daimyo even found a role for Mok Shaiz's duplicitous majordomo to play as the Syndicate marched upon Mos Espa.

## PLOTS IN THE PALACE

### 22 BSW4:

Anakin Skywalker and Ahsoka Tano rescued Jabba the Hutt's son Rotta from Separatist kidnappers and returned him to his palatial home.

### 21 BSW4:

Singer Sy Snootles engaged in subterfuge on Jabba's behalf, murdering the Hutt's uncle Ziro on Teth and delivering a holodiar containing sensitive information about his family to the palace.

### 19 BSW4:

Maul and his Shadow Collective launched an assault on the palace in a bid to force Jabba and the Hutt Council to join their organization, gaining more power for the alliance of criminal groups.

### 4 ASW4:

Han Solo's friends initiated a plan to infiltrate the palace and rescue the smuggler from his carbonite prison. The effort proved successful, and Jabba the Hutt was slain by Leia Organa during the daring escape.

### 9 ASW4:

With Bib Fortuna occupying Jabba's former throne, Boba Fett and Fennec Shand broke into the palace and stole Fett's starship from the hangar bay. Fett eventually returned to execute Fortuna and take control.

### 9 ASW4:

Boba Fett survived an assassination attempt by bounty hunter Krrsantan, hired by Jabba's twin cousins. Prior to leaving Tatooine, the Twins made a conciliatory gesture and warned Fett about the Pyke Syndicate.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

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# STAR WARS INSIDER WORLDWIDE

CELEBRATING THE SAGA

## GLAD TO BE CAD

Cosplaying as a notoriously ruthless bounty hunter



Photos by Brian Imagery



Introduced to the galaxy through *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008-2020), Cori was captivated by one character in particular. “I fell in love with the show, even though I didn’t know more than the basics about the original trilogy at the time,” explains the cosplayer. “It was intense, and the characters were unique, but when Cad Bane appeared on screen he topped them all.”

With his gritty look and gravelly voice, Bane was Cori’s idea of the perfect bounty hunter, and the perfect subject for a foray into cosplay. But the fan had to learn some new skills before she could make her idea a reality. “I spent time learning how to 3D model his costume so I could print pieces of Bane’s outfit, such as the rocket



## INSIDER NEEDS YOU!

We want to hear from you! Tell us about your *Star Wars* experience. What made you want to become a fan? What have you done in the name of *Star Wars*? Tell us your *Star Wars* story by sending your photos, art, and letters here:

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boosters, breather, and wrist gauntlets. I recreated his iconic jacket using faux leather, and used EVA foam for the belts, holsters, and hat, so they would be lightweight.

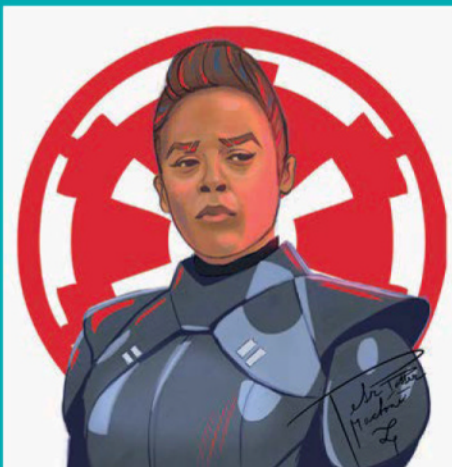
"The mask was the final piece, which I sculpted using foam clay," says Cori (pictured below). "I wanted to capture every detail from the ammo packs on his belt to his elongated Duros fingers." Cori also built the bounty hunter's hovering droid sidekick, Todo 360, from more than fifty individually 3D printed parts.

The mammoth project took Cori more than 300 hours to complete, but the task was worth the effort. "I'm usually a very quiet and shy person but once the mask goes on, I feel confident. It's thrilling to become the ruthless bounty hunter that 'needs no introduction,'" Cori says. "What it boils down to is simple: I love *Star Wars*. I love the characters, the environments, the games, movies, shows—you name it! I know I'll continue to do so for a long time."



# ARTISTS' ALLEY

Talented *Star Wars* fans share their amazing drawings inspired by the galaxy far, far away....



## 01 "REVA" AND "LEIA" BY PETR POTTER MACHANE

A music and art teacher in the Czech Republic, Petr Potter Machane draws as a hobby. Machane's illustrations expertly bring two key characters from *Obi-Wan Kenobi* (2022)—the Third Sister, Reva, and young Princess Leia Organa—to vibrant life. Machane loves the music of John Williams and dreams of one day working on feature films in a movie art department.

## 02 "SCOUT TROOPER" AND "HERA" BY RYAN GABINO-CARRÉ

"Drawing has always been a passion for me," reflects fan artist Ryan Gabino-Carré, whose speeder bike and scout trooper is pictured below. "From ships to characters, I try to recreate the magic that the original designers harnessed and keep a part of it for myself." Ryan also rendered Hera Syndulla from *Star Wars Rebels* (2014–2018), one of the artist's most beloved shows.





## BOUNTY HUNTERS

Scouring the galaxy for the stars of *Star Wars*...

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## ROSARIO DAWSON: Ahsoka Tano Lives!



Cole Lebrecht (left) and friend pose with Rosario Dawson (center), who portrays Ahsoka Tano in *Ahsoka*, *The Mandalorian* (2019 - ), and *The Book of Boba Fett* (2021).

**B**est known to *Star Wars* fans for playing former Jedi Padawan Ahsoka Tano in *The Mandalorian* (2019 - ), *The Book of Boba Fett* (2021), and the upcoming Disney+ series *Ahsoka*, Rosario Dawson is an iconic talent whose career includes countless roles that have brought joy to millions. "Meeting Rosario Dawson was such a fun and amazing experience," says Cole Lebrecht, "not only as a huge fan of the character of Ahsoka, but also as a massive *Marvel* and *Rent* fan."

Thrilled about Rosario's role in *Ahsoka* and ecstatic over the chance to meet the actor in person, Lebrecht—who dressed as Luke Skywalker for the occasion—found the experience to be one he'll never forget. "Rosario was unbelievably kind and genuine, and when we walked up to take the picture she very enthusiastically took my lightsaber and went into a fighting stance. Meeting her was everything I'd hoped for!"



## A 'GRAD' MOTIVATOR

Using the saga to tackle higher education

**G**eneticists in the galaxy far, far away may have been focused on cloning and midi-chlorian counts, but the brilliant minds on our planet tend to focus on topics that are more down to Earth.

"I am currently a graduate student working toward my Ph.D. in genetics," says Lauren Thornton, a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University studying mechanosensing mechanisms in blood vessels. "Science is difficult. It deals heavily in the realm of the unknown," Thornton explains. "*Star Wars* has helped help me cope with the isolating nature of graduate school, the interpersonal relationships, and the uncertainty of research."

The graduate student drew upon that inspiring galaxy by designing and crocheting a custom BB-8 laptop bag. "The bag is my little reminder that I'm not alone, and that creativity and imagination go a long way."

BB-8 is Thornton's favorite *Star Wars* droid, and the bag, which

features circular appliques and variations on the traditional granny square, took about a week to make. "Truth be told, I'm scared to actually put too much weight in the bag," confesses the student. "Instead, I have it placed on my desk in the laboratory." The fan also sees a glimmer of humanity in the artificial lifeform. "My favorite aspect of the *Star Wars* galaxy is how it deals with different cultures and humanity. What better way to play with what makes us human than droids! Each droid has its own personality."

When asked about how fandom correlates to scientific studies, Thornton replies, "One of the cool parts about science is that you get to explore new things no one has discovered before. I love science fiction because it gives my mind space to imagine what could be. Specifically, I like *Star Wars* for the way it transports you to different worlds."



# THE SACRED TEXTS

Igniting a family bond  
and finding joy in words

**S**tar Wars has played an invaluable role in enriching the lives of its fans, whether as a source of entertainment, inspiration, or both. The saga certainly held a very special place in Joey Lim's upbringing.

"My mom took me to see *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999) when it came out," says Lim. "She's the reason why I started watching *Star Wars*, and I have followed it ever since. Mom and I bonded over



*Star Wars*, and she's always supported me by going with me when I've attended conventions in a *Star Wars* costume."

After watching the movie, Lim was determined to learn more about Jedi Knights, weird creatures, and other characters who populated the film, and wasn't prepared to let dyslexia stand in the way. The learning difficulty, which is very common, affects people's ability to read, write, and spell, and sometimes results in a reluctance to read at all. "When I was young, my family would sometimes try to get me to read books but there weren't many that captured my interest," says Lim. That all changed when Lim fell in love with *Star Wars*. "After seeing *The Phantom Menace*, I wanted to go to the library to borrow a *Star Wars* book or go to the bookstore to buy a novel," Lim adds. "I loved reading about Boba Fett in the comic books, and how Obi-Wan Kenobi fought with Darth Maul."



# TK-101

HINTS, TIPS, AND IDEAS FOR CRAFTING  
YOUR OWN STAR WARS GALAXY



## IT'S A TRAP!

In this edition, TK-101 commemorates *Return of the Jedi*'s 40th anniversary by crafting an Admiral Ackbar puppet from a do-it-yourself Christmas decoration and some upholstery foam!

WORDS: CHRISTOPHER COOPER

**S**hopping for decorations last year, you may have gone with Hallmark *Star Wars* ornaments or picked up some more traditional seasonal knickknacks. However, when TK-101 spotted some make-your-own baubles in a craft store, it wasn't trimmings for a Christmas tree that sprang to mind, but something just as celebratory.

Admiral Ackbar has been a favorite of TK-101's ever since we sacrificed a bunch of *Star Wars* action-figure cardbacks to score a toy of the erstwhile admiral via Kenner's 1983 *Return of the Jedi* mail-away offer. The Mon Calamari possess some very distinctive optics, and TK-101 realized that the crafty baubles—clear plastic spheres that split in two, allowing you to fill the innards with festive charms—would be perfect for replicating their bulging peepers.

Having considered attempting a puppet build based on a *Star Wars*

character for some time, and with *Jedi*'s big birthday on the horizon, we purchased a box of baubles and began to draw up our plan of attack.

### The Eyes Have It

Among TK-101's many obsessions, we've loved *The Muppets* for decades, and our initial idea was to recreate Admiral Ackbar in that famous style. Reticulated foam is one of the main components used by Muppet makers when creating their puppet heads and bodies, but there are numerous other types that can be utilized. TK-101 had some old upholstery foam from a long-gone couch that was serving no purpose, so that became the base for our puppet. Lightweight and cheap to buy, it's an ideal material for budding puppet makers to learn with.

The first step was to determine the right scale for the puppet, using half a bauble as a guide. We sketched out the profile of

Ackbar's head directly onto the foam, drawn around a template of our hand to ensure we'd have space inside to operate his mouth. After cutting two identical-ish head shapes with a sharp blade, we carved out an area inside each big enough for our hand and forearm, and glued the two halves together with contact adhesive. We then "sculpted" the head with a sharp pair of scissors to define Ackbar's cranium, nostrils, and lips.

Mon Calamari eyes stick out from the sides of their heads, so using our baubles as a template once again, we cut two smaller pieces of foam to recreate those features, onto which the plastic hemispheres would later be glued. But we were about to encounter a barrier as impenetrable as an Imperial deflector shield.



### Sew Be It

If TK-101 has one weakness, it's needles. We find threading them next to impossible, and the less said about our sewing skills the better. Part of the Muppet look, however, is their fleecy covering, requiring an adeptness with needle and thread that we can't (yet) muster. It was time for a rethink. While screen accuracy was still not on our minds, a fabric closer to Ackbar's leathery skin would mean we could use good old glue instead—and PVC faux leather was the perfect fit.







An online purchase later and a square meter of tan-colored, waterproof fabric (perfect for an aquatic species) was on its way.

Admiral Ackbar's flesh is a mix of wrinkles, recesses, folds, and large, flat areas, which meant we could approach covering our foam head in overlapping sections, working outwards and upwards from his chin and neck. Using reference photos of the admiral from *Jedi* and the sequel trilogy, we experimented with paper templates, only cutting the required shapes from our faux leather once we were happy they were right, incorporating characteristic folds where needed. The eyelids were the trickiest to form, and TK-101 cursed our impulse buy more than once along the way.

After adding dangling details to Ackbar's chin (made from strips of the faux leather), we borrowed SM-1138's airbrush to shade areas and add mottled markings to the admiral's forehead. All he needed now was a uniform (using the reverse side of the PVC fabric) and a fin-like hand (faux leather glued to some cardboard!) and our Admiral Ackbar puppet was ready to take on a Death Star. Altogether now: "It's a TRAP!" 🐡





# The *Star Wars* Archive

The behind-the-scenes  
story of a galaxy far,  
far away...

## DROID FACTORY

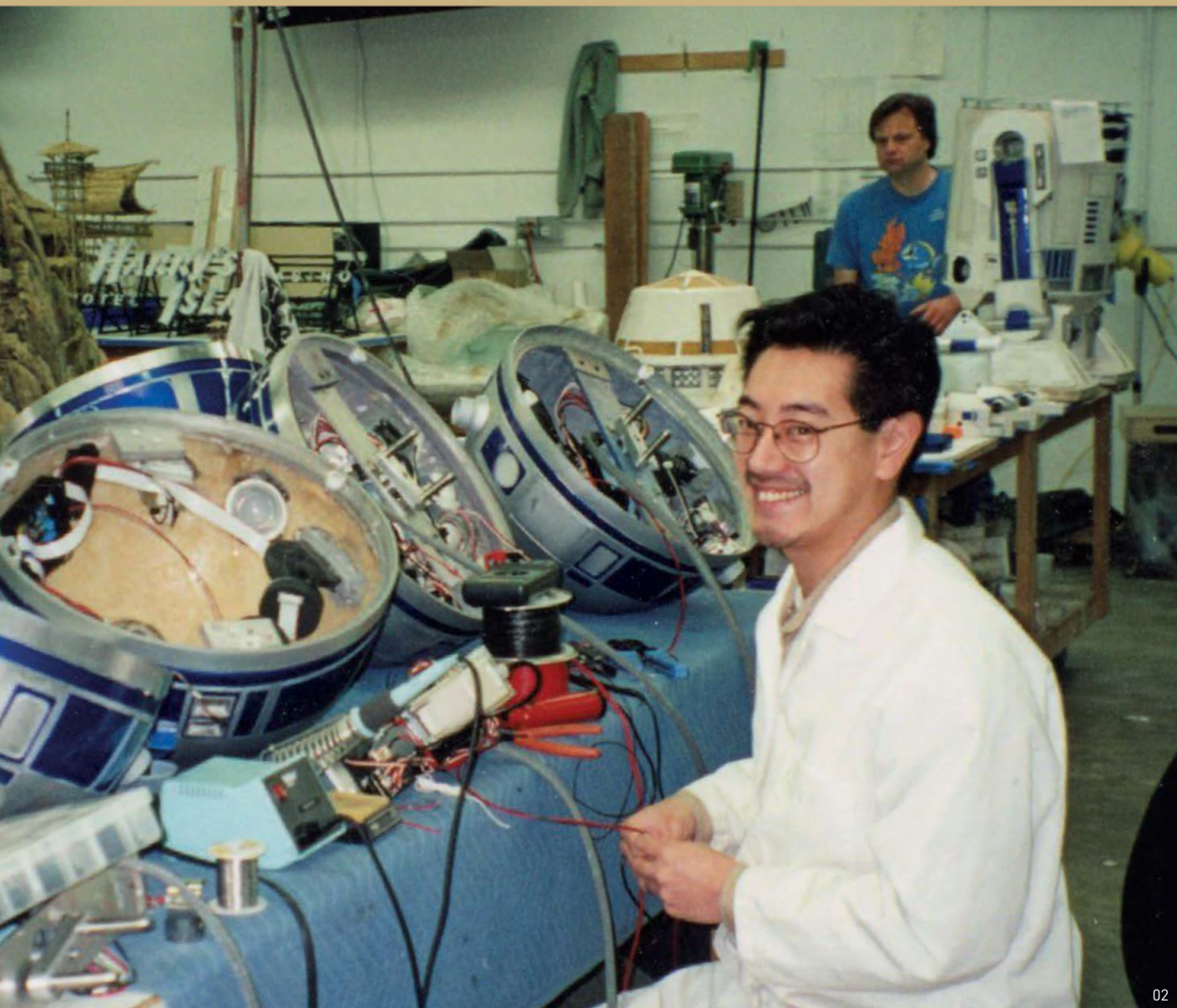
When Luke Skywalker started cleaning R2-D2 in *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977), he observed that it looked like the droid had “seen a lot of action.”

While the on-screen grime and dings were part of the signature *Star Wars* look, the real-life R2 props took some damage over the years as they were re-used in subsequent films or made public appearances. As a result, when it came time for Don Bies and his team at Industrial Light & Magic to ready Lucasfilm’s stock of R2-D2s for *Attack of the Clones* (2002), they needed rather more than a spring clean.

“It was a mainly a refurbishing project,” Nelson Hall told *Star Wars Insider*. “We didn’t really build new ones per se, but we added new parts, new paint, upgraded technology, and extended capabilities. They had new life!” And what was the biggest challenge in keeping R2 moving? “Replacing all the bad motivators!” Hall joked. ▶







02



04

01 Don Bies, Industrial Light & Magic's droid department supervisor, was the lead R2-D2 operator on *Attack of the Clones* (2002) and *Revenge of the Sith* (2005).

02 Grant Imahara (front) undertook the task of making numerous electromechanical upgrades to R2-D2.

03 Don Bies with an array of R2 domes.

04 The primary focus for Nelson Hall (right) on the R2 restorations for *Attack of the Clones* was the droid's cosmetic appearance; stripping, masking, and repainting the astromech props.



05



05 **Nelson Hall:** "Some of the R2 units had multiple layers of paint, going back years from different shoots, which had to be removed with abrasive pads, metal tools, and chemical strippers."

06 **Nelson Hall:** "We really wanted to nail the R2 blue, which was quite inconsistent across the droids. Don found a small detail on an old R2 that still had its original trilogy paint, and I spent the best part of a week formulating different mixes until we were satisfied with the result."

07 Don Bies on location in Tunisia for *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* with the remote-controlled R2-D2 and Anthony Daniels as C-3PO.

08 Kenny Baker (left) with an R2-D2 prop and former *Star Wars Insider* editor Dan Madsen (right) on the set of *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999).



06





## “I’M NAKED!”

In *The Phantom Menace*, movie audiences learned that Anakin Skywalker had made C-3PO using scavenged parts but he had never had a chance to add the droid’s outer casing.

This plot point was picked up in scenes filmed but eventually cut from *Attack of the Clones*, with Anthony Daniels operating the “naked” C-3PO puppet that ILM model supervisor Michael Lynch had controlled during filming of *The Phantom Menace*. As scripted, Padmé Amidala would have fitted C-3PO’s outer casing from spare parts found in the Lars homestead garage. Daniels wore a custom-made harness (pictured above), similar to a steadicam rig used by camera operators. “We wanted C-3PO to walk more like Anthony Daniels does in the full costume than he did in *The Phantom Menace*, so we updated the puppet’s legs,” explained Don Bies.

It was later decided that the protocol droid should appear fully formed in an earlier scene, so shots for a sequence previously filmed in Tunisia were reshot at Ealing Studios, London, and at ILM. 🤖







TALES OF  
ENLIGHTENMENT

# “No Such Thing as a Bad Customer”

PART ONE

By George Mann

Concept art by Matt Allsop







A

ll I'm saying is that Keth's been spending a *lot* of time with his new Jedi friend. Too much time if you ask me."

"I didn't,"

said Piralli. The Sullustan was perched on his regular stool at the bar, head bowed over his drink in the low light. From the other side of the bar, Kradon—the insectile impresario of Enlightenment—issued an odd, trilling chuckle.

Moona fixed Piralli with a confused look. "You didn't what?"

"Ask you," said Piralli, looking up with a grin. "I didn't ask you."

"Ask me *what*?"

Piralli rolled his eyes. "Never mind. Besides, Keth's *working*. You know that. It's all to do with that peace treaty, between Eiram and E'ronoh. Things haven't been going so well. Someone tried to sabotage the signing with a bomb. The Jedi are doing their best to hold everything together and stop the two worlds sliding back into war. Keth's helping. He and that Jedi are right in the thick of things."

"Hmmm," said Moona, she took a long draw of blue mappa, then wiped her mouth with the back of her hand. "Well, you know how I feel about *Jedi*."

"I think we *all* do," said Piralli.

"It's the arrogance of them," said Moona, wagging a finger. "The way they just assume they know best. That they're the *only* ones who can protect the galaxy."

Piralli shrugged. "They do a pretty good job from where I'm sitting."

"You would say that."

"Why would I?"

"Because you love all those stories, don't you? All that action and adventure on the frontier."

"Well, it's gotta beat working at the docks on Jedha, doesn't it?"

"Careful what you wish for, Piralli. That's what I always tell Keth. Adventure has a way of biting people on the backside. Me? I much prefer the quiet life."

"Something tells me Keth and his new friend wouldn't agree," said Piralli.

"Well, he can't say I didn't warn him," replied Moona. She eyed the door. "Anyway, he's not the only one with a new friend."

Piralli was intrigued. "He's not?"

"Nope," said Moona. "And I'm going

to introduce you to her tonight. So, you'd better be on your best behavior."

Piralli laughed. "Who is she, then, this friend? And where did you meet her? You never leave this place."

"You'll see. And I *do* have a life outside of this place. You're just not paying attention." Moona placed her empty glass on the bar and glanced around again at the sound of someone coming through the door. For a moment she looked disappointed, and then narrowed her gaze before turning to Piralli. "I've never seen that uniform before."

Piralli craned his neck. The newcomer looked human, with dark skin and braided hair, and was wearing a neat blue tunic trimmed with gold. He approached the bar and leaned heavily upon it with his forearms, giving his order to the Ithorian barkeep. He looked exhausted. "An Eirami security officer, by the look of him," said Piralli, his voice low. "We've seen a few of them down at the docks, escorting the ambassador to the peace conference."

"From one of the warring planets?" said Moona, studying the newcomer with interest. He caught her looking and gave a little wave. She glanced at Piralli, uncertain, as the man collected his drink from old Chantho and moved along the bar to join them.

Piralli turned in his seat. "You look like you've earned that," he said, nodding at the tall glass of ale the man was holding.

The newcomer's lips twitched. "You could say that." He raised his glass in salute and then downed half its content in a single, long draw.

"Moona, Piralli," said Moona.

"Paternok," replied the man. He placed his drink on the counter. "It's nice to finally find a place worth visiting on this dust bowl."

Piralli laughed. "You're missing the ocean, I take it?"

Paternok looked at Piralli, surprised. "You know Eiram?"

Piralli shook his head. "Only what I've heard from the ground crew of your shuttles." He plucked at his own uniform by way of explanation. "I work at the docks."

"Well, you're missing out. It's more beautiful than you could ever imagine. Crystal-clear oceans stretching as far as the eye can see. The light—it creates this haze in the morning that fills the sky—and you can stand on the shore and believe there's



## *The blaster clattered noisily to the floor. Silence rippled through the bar.*

nothing else in the whole of the galaxy but you and those dancing colors. There's no place quite like it."

"It sounds wet," said Moona. "And salty. I prefer the desert sands."

The man laughed. "I suppose everyone has a different idea of home."

"Sounds like it's been a while," said Piralli, "since you were back there, I mean."

Paternok nodded. "Too long. This war... it's changed everything. Ambassador Cerox—that's who I'm assigned to protect—she's spent much of the last five years flitting from world to world across the frontier, trying to drum up support for the war effort. Even when I do get home, it's not the same. Not anymore. Everything seems... Well, it's hard to admire the beauty of a place while bombs are dropping all around you."

"I can't begin to imagine," said Piralli.

"Still, it serves to remind me what we're fighting for," said Paternok. "For home. For the life we had before the war."

"I thought the war was over?" said Piralli. "That's why you're here, isn't it?"

Paternok shrugged. "If the stories are to be believed. The heirs of Eiram and E'ronoh have married and are intent on forging this treaty to end the war. But it's not as simple as just signing a piece of paper and taking some marriage vows, is it?"

"It's not?"

"No." Paternok's expression darkened. He took another long drink of ale. "Thing is, there're people on both sides of this conflict who have lost loved ones. Friends. *Family*. We've spent five years fighting E'ronoh. Even longer hating them. And now we're expected to put all that aside and pretend we're friends, just because of a royal wedding and the word of a few people on Jedha?"

Moona shifted on her stool. She was continually glancing in the direction of the door, but her new friend—whoever she was—had yet to appear. "But surely you *want* to see an end to the fighting, don't you?"

Paternok nodded. "Of course. But it doesn't mean we can forgive. Or forget."

"How did it all start?" asked Moona.

Piralli followed her gaze as she glanced up at another newcomer who'd come through the door. A tall, pale woman with auburn hair that she wore scraped back in a tight bun. She was dressed in a green jacket brocaded with the finery of some official office or position. The left sleeve was pinned across her chest, suggesting she was missing an arm.

The woman exchanged a few words with the looming Gloovan bouncers, the Twinkle Sisters, and then made a beeline for the bar. Piralli bristled. He knew that uniform by sight, too—the newcomer was some sort of representative from E'ronoh—the other party in the war that Paternok had, until recently, been fighting. He turned back to Paternok, who was still talking to Moona.

"...when E'ronoh began to rain bombs down on Eiram without provocation."

Piralli glanced at the woman standing at the bar. He saw her shoulders droop with an embattled sigh. "That's not exactly how it happened, is it?" she said, wearily.

Paternok looked up, his eyes widening at the sight of the uniformed woman. His hand went straight for the concealed holster under his left arm—and the blaster that was hidden inside it. "Damn E'ronhi!" His face was contorted in a look that was somewhere between fear, alarm, and abject hatred.

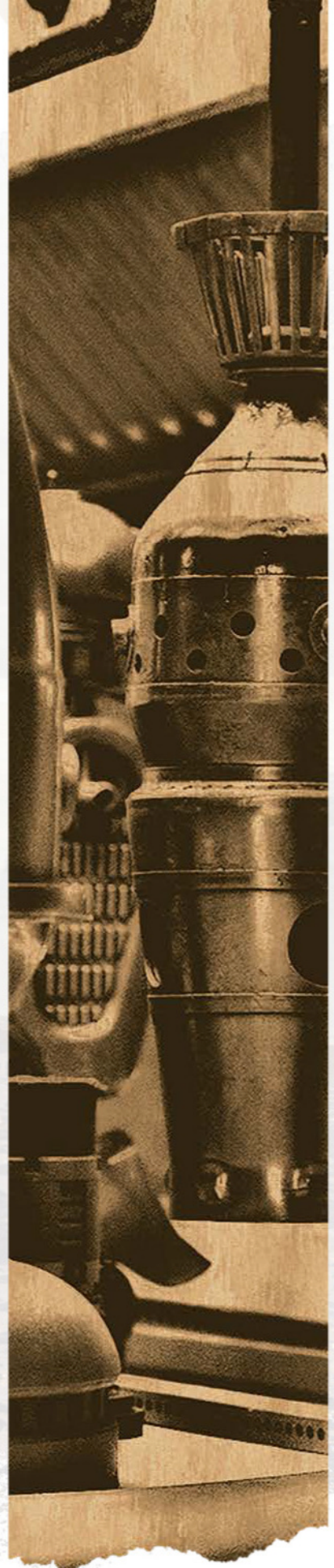
The blaster came up and out—and was promptly knocked from Paternok's hand by a swift downward chop from Kradon, who had, surreptitiously, managed to slide out from behind the bar to intercept the drawing of the weapon.

The blaster clattered noisily to the floor. Silence rippled through the bar. All eyes settled on the three figures—Paternok, Kradon, and the newcomer.

The woman shrugged, sat down at the bar, and looked expectantly at old Chantho. "I've heard this is the only place to get a decent retsa on the whole of Jedha."

Chantho made a low nodding gesture and reached for the bottle from behind the bar.

Piralli realized he was holding his breath and let it out. Moona was sitting ▶





on the very edge of her stool, watching Kradon, her empty drink in her hand.

The Villerandi made a clacking sound with his mandibles. “*Everyone* is welcome in Enlightenment,” he said to Paternok.

The Eirami glanced at his blaster on the floor. He looked torn. Here, before him, was a woman who represented everything he’d been fighting against for the last five years. The cause of every dead soldier he’d known. Here was the *enemy* standing there, blatantly ordering a drink. No matter that their leaders were about to sign an accord—that didn’t change how these people on the ground might feel. Piralli thought he could understand that. But then, these two were here as part of the *peace* delegation. No matter what Paternok had said about lack of trust, about his inability to forgive—he wasn’t going to be given a choice *but* to find common ground with those he had come to think of as the enemy.

“But how can you let *her*...” said Paternok, obviously torn.

“*Everyone*,” repeated Kradon. “*All* beings are welcome... so long as they abstain from violence, and do not engage in theological debate.” Kradon seemed to shudder at the very thought.

The moment stretched. And then, clearly deciding that going against Kradon was an inadvisable course of action, Paternok simply sighed. His head drooped.

Kradon clapped a hand on the man’s shoulder, pushing him gently, but firmly, back onto his stool. “Now, Kradon sees you have made some new friends. And your glasses are empty! Why don’t you all relax and have another drink, hmmm? Kradon believes it was Piralli’s round.”

Before Piralli could object, Kradon had slipped back behind the bar and begun preparing another three drinks.

Piralli sighed. He supposed it *had* been his round. Nothing went unnoticed in this place. *Especially* by Kradon. A quick glance at the floor told him the dropped blaster had been spirited away by the Villerandi’s nimble fingers, too.

The E’ronhi woman accepted her drink from old Chantho. She eyed them

cautiously over the rim of her glass. “Kimbral,” she said. “In case you were wondering.”

Moona affected the usual brief introductions. When it came to Paternok, she hesitated, glanced at him as if seeking permission, and when met with a blank expression introduced him regardless. Kimbral sipped her drink in silent acknowledgement.

“So, you fought in the war too? Is that how you lost your arm?” asked Moona. Piralli rolled his eyes. Moona was ever the tactful one.

Kimbral’s lips twitched in the ghost of a smile, but the warmth never reached her eyes. “The Battle of Salamento Bridge,” she said. “Worst thing I’ve ever seen. I was a pilot. An experienced one at that. But flying through that storm of surface-to-air fire... I lost seventeen friends that day. *Seventeen*. Their ships erupting like tiny suns on the horizon. And I was one of the *lucky* ones. When I got hit, it only cost me a limb.” She drained half the contents of her glass. “I swear to you—you can’t imagine anything quite so hellish as that place.”

“I can.” All heads turned to regard Paternok, who was gripping his drink so tightly that his knuckles had turned white.

“You were there?” asked Kimbral.

“I still remember the smell of searing ozone when the laser batteries discharged. The scream of rending metal. The afterglow of the explosions lighting up the whole sky.” He looked away. “You weren’t the only one who lost people that day. My brother. My wife...” He sniffed, then cleared his throat, unable or unwilling to continue.

There was a moment’s silence, in which the only sound was the noise of the unusually boisterous crowds coming from somewhere outside.

“I’m sorry,” said Kimbral.

Paternok turned, his eyes accusing. “For *what*? For being part of the bombing raid? For starting the war in the first place?”

“For everything we’ve both lost. For *everyone*. For all that the war has cost us.” She chewed her lip. “It doesn’t really matter who started things, does it? We both think

***“I still remember the smell of searing ozone when the laser batteries discharged.”***



the other side is to blame. But really, what matters is that we find a way to make it *stop*. Before either of us loses anyone else."

Paternok swallowed. He seemed to consider her words for a moment. "Perhaps you're right." He ran a hand through his hair. "I just... I just want it all to end. We might not be able to forgive or forget, but perhaps we don't have to. Perhaps it is enough to just *stop*."

"I'll drink to that," said Kimbral, raising her glass.

Paternok studied her for a moment, and then nodded and raised his own glass in salute.

"There, now," said Moona. "That wasn't so bad, was it? This peacekeeping business is easy. Who needs the Jedi?"

The two veterans turned their gazes on Moona, and both erupted into racking fits of laughter. But Moona was studying the closed door again.

"I'm sure your friend will be here soon," said Piralli, sensing Moona's agitation.

"It's not that," said Moona. "Can't you hear?"

"The crowds?"

"No." She waved the others quiet.

Piralli strained to listen. "That noise... It sounds like *blaster* fire!"

Kradon was already making for the door. He pushed his way between the Twinkle Sisters to peer out at the scene beyond. "Kradon does not like the look of this," he muttered.

Piralli, Moona and the others hurried over.

Outside, people were scattering for cover as ships slid noisily overhead, deploying scores of enforcer droids, strange-looking weapons platforms, and platoons of uniformed soldiers to the nearby streets. Streaks of blaster fire raked the tops of distant buildings. Somewhere close by, people were screaming.

"Those are Eirami soldiers!" said Paternok, his voice tight. "Cerox must have deployed the troops."

"And those are E'ronhi ships, too," added Kimbral.

"Then the peace talks have failed," said Kradon. "And now your war has come to Jedha."

For a moment, none of them spoke as the gravity of those words gradually sank in.

Slowly, Kimbral turned to Paternok, her expression wracked with sorrow. "I... I..." she faltered, and then drew

herself up as she collected herself. "It was good to know you, Eirami."

Paternok nodded. "Likewise, E'ronhi."

Without another word, Kimbral pushed her way out past the Twinkle Sisters and out of Enlightenment. Before long she had disappeared, swallowed beneath the shadow of a passing ship.

"No," said Moona, quietly, as if her simple denial could prevent the horror unfolding before their eyes. As if it could stop Kimbral from returning to the fight.

Paternok dusted the front of his uniform and took a step forward, but Piralli caught his arm, holding him back. "You're not going out there, are you? To fight?"

Paternok gently shook him off. "What choice do I have?"

"Just now, in there," Piralli indicated the bar behind him, "you were ready to give it up, to draw a truce. You said you just wanted it all to stop."

"Looks like that's been taken out of our hands," said Paternok. "But all the same, I thank you, my friends, for the chance to dream of peace. Even if it was only for a moment."

He ducked out through the door, running for the cover of a nearby side street. Another ship screeched low over the nearby rooftops, discharging its blasters.

Piralli turned back to the bar, shaking his head. "Well, whatever's going on out there, I want no part in it. I suggest we take cover in here, sit out th—"

"Incoming," barked Delphine, cutting him off.

"What do you mean, 'incoming'?" said Piralli, turning just in time to see a tall human male, shouting obscenities, and wielding a metal bar as a makeshift cudgel, run directly into the towering Gloovan's fist. The man went down with a thud. But others were following in his wake. Rioters, by the look of them, and they appeared to be *exceedingly* angry.

Somewhere in the distance, a building exploded.

"Back up, back up!" bellowed Kradon, his voice acquiring a sharp, shrill pitch that Piralli had never heard him use before. "It looks like Kradon has some very thirsty customers to deal with."

But no one was laughing. Not this time.

As Piralli fell back, grabbing for Moona's hand, the swarm of rioters closed on Enlightenment's doors.

TO BE CONTINUED

## NEXT ISSUE:

Part Two of  
"No Such Thing as  
a Bad Customer,"  
exclusive to  
*Star Wars  
Insider!*





# JEDI MASTER'S QUIZ

The stark white armor of Imperial stormtroopers instilled fear throughout the galaxy, but the Empire's forces also included a host of specialists troops. Show off your training by acing our test on the soldiers of the Empire.

**Compiled by**  
**Jay Stobie**

## "WHAT'S YOUR DESIGNATION?"

Deploy the correct answers to these tricky questions on types of trooper.

### STANDARD ISSUE

**1: What type of apparel denote the rank of some Imperial stormtroopers?**

- A/ Capes
- B/ Belts
- C/ Pauldrons
- D/ Gloves



**2: Which blaster rifle was standard issue for Imperial stormtroopers?**

- A/ IG-88 blaster rifle
- B/ E-11 blaster rifle
- C/ TK-421 blaster rifle
- D/ THX-1138 blaster rifle

**3: Who led a daring-yet-foolish charge into a room filled with stormtroopers on the Death Star?**

- A/ Luke Skywalker
- B/ Han Solo
- C/ Leia Organa
- D/ Obi-Wan Kenobi

**4: Which starship did stormtroopers board at the beginning of *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977)?**

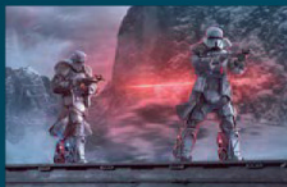
- A/ Millennium Falcon
- B/ First Light
- C/ Tantive IV
- D/ Finalizer



**5: Where did stormtroopers finally catch up with and apprehend Han Solo and Leia Organa?**

- A/ Cloud City
- B/ Hoth
- C/ Anoat
- D/ Tatooine

### ON THE ATTACK



**6: What type of vehicle did range troopers guard on Vandor?**

- A/ AT-hauler
- B/ Speeder bike
- C/ AT-ST
- D/ Conveyer train

**7: Who found Leia Organa after she escaped scout troopers on the Forest Moon of Endor?**

- A/ Han Solo
- B/ Wicket W. Warwick
- C/ C-3PO
- D/ Darth Vader

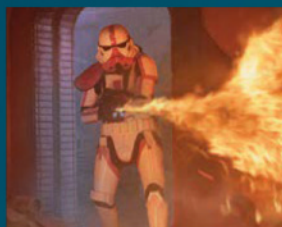
**8: What type of Imperial driver did Din Djarin disguise himself as on Morak?**

- A/ AT-AT driver
- B/ Combat assault tank commander
- C/ Juggernaut tank driver
- D/ AT-ACT driver



**9: Who deployed an incinerator trooper to root out Din Djarin and his allies?**

- A/ The Client
- B/ Doctor Pershing
- C/ Morgan Elsbeth
- D/ Moff Gideon



**10: Which rebel base did snowtroopers breach during the Battle of Hoth?**

- A/ Alpha Base
- B/ Gamma Base
- C/ Delta Base
- D/ Echo Base



### DARK FORCES

**11: Where did Director Orson Krennic and his death troopers find the Erso family?**

- A/ Lah'mu
- B/ Jedha
- C/ Ring of Kafrene
- D/ Wobani



**12: Which key Imperial locale did purge troopers help defend?**

- A/ Fortress Inquisitorius
- B/ Scarif security complex
- C/ Karthon chop fields
- D/ Eadu facility



**13: How many dark troopers did Din Djarin personally destroy?**

- A/ Three
- B/ Two
- C/ One
- D/ Zero

**14: Who brought two purge troopers to assist in apprehending Obi-Wan Kenobi on Jabim?**

- A/ Kawlan Roken
- B/ Reva
- C/ Tala Durith
- D/ Darth Vader



**15: Why did Moff Gideon dispatch dark troopers to Tython?**

- A/ To kill Din Djarin
- B/ To imprison Fennec Shand
- C/ To locate Boba Fett
- D/ To capture Grogu



## “TK-421, WHY AREN'T YOU AT YOUR POST?”

Determine who spoke these lines related to Imperial troopers:

1. “I CAN’T SEE A THING IN THIS HELMET!”
2. “ORDERS? WHEN YOU KNOW THEY’RE WRONG? YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE A STORMTROOPER.”
3. “ONLY IMPERIAL STORMTROOPERS ARE SO PRECISE.”
4. “You got a lot of nerve, pal. I’m an Imperial trooper.”
5. “AREN’T YOU A LITTLE SHORT FOR A STORMTROOPER?”

## AN ASSORTMENT OF ARMOR

Identify the types of Imperial troopers shown in the images below:



**ANSWERS QUIZ:** 1. C, 2. B, 3. B, 4. C, 5. A, 6. D, 7. B, 8. C, 9. D, 10. D, 11. A, 12. A, 13. C, 14. B, 15. D.  
**TK-421, WHY AREN'T YOU AT YOUR POST?** 1. Luke Skywalker, 2. Jyn Erso, 3. Obi-Wan Kenobi, 4. R2-D2, 5. Leia Organa.  
**AN ASSORTMENT OF ARMOR** 1. Purge trooper (Obi-Wan Kenobi), 2. Mudtrooper (Solo: A Star Wars Story), 3. Death trooper (Rogue One: A Star Wars Story), 4. Stormtrooper (Rogue One: A Star Wars Story).

### HOW DID YOU DO?

Were you on target with the correct answers?

**0-9:** With a showing like that, we should send you back to the Imperial Academy!

**10-19:** Commendable work, but you're not command-level material... yet.

**20-24:** Imperial precision! If only we had a whole garrison of troopers with your skill.



NEXT ISSUE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE ISSUE 218

# STAR WARS

## INSIDER

## 218

# Ahsoka!

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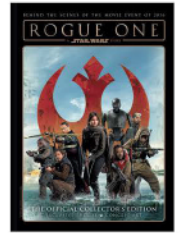
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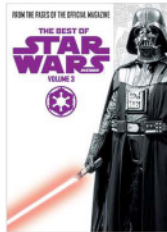
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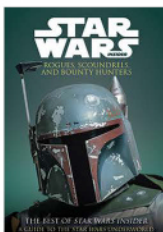
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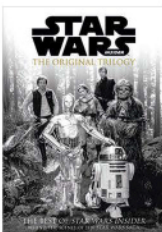
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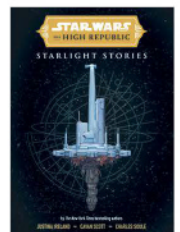
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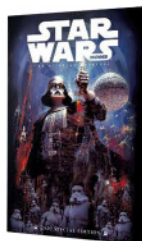
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